

Make international connections
From Israel, just dial:
177-100-2727
AT&T

THE JERUSALEM POST

Caffeine Free
Coca-Cola
This is Refreshment

VOLUME LXIII, NUMBER 19456

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1996 • TEVET 6, 5757 • 6 SHAABAN, 1417

NIS 4.50 (Eilat NIS 3.80)

INSIDE
EIGHT PAGES
FROM SUNDAY'S
The New York Times
WEEKLY REVIEW

November CPI up 0.6%; 1996 expected to hit 10.6%
DAVID HARRIS

THE consumer price index rose 0.6 percent in November, to 142.0 points, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. It was the sixth consecutive month in which the CPI has increased by less than 1%.

Since January, inflation has totaled 9.7%, and in the year to November was running at 11%. CBS figures suggest inflation will reach 10.58% in 1996, compared to the Finance Ministry's predicted 8-10%.

The main element of last month's increase was in housing, up 1%, and comprising some 33% of the entire November CPI increase. Apartment prices rose 1.1%, with rented properties becoming 0.5% more expensive.

Furnishings and household items rose in price some 0.9%, principally through increases in the costs of electric heaters (3.6%), cooking implements (1.3%) and children's furnishings (1%).

The clothing and footwear index rose 3.9%, the CBS attributing this to the start of the winter season.

Transportation and communications prices went up 0.4%, mainly because of increases in the cost of - up 2.2% for vehicles - and 3% rise in train fares.

The cost of health services rose and food prices (excluding and vegetables) increased

the other hand, there were falls in the price of fruit andables (1.4%). Fresh fruit s dropped 5.3%, with freshables rising in price by 1.5%. is main factors likely to affect December CPI are the increase electricity tariffs and a relative-small seasonal increase in clothing and footwear prices.



A Palestinian holds up a poster of Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine leader George Habash at a rally in Nablus yesterday. Two PFLP members are suspected of killing Etta Tzur and her son Ephraim in last week's drive-by shooting near Beit El. (AP)

Fighting continues in south Lebanon

DAVID RUDGE

FIGHTING continued in south Lebanon yesterday after a weekend Katyusha rocket attack on the Galilee and an abortive Hizbullah ambush, in which a senior IDF officer and a soldier were lightly hurt.

IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah targets in the southern Bekaa Valley, which is controlled by Syrian forces, and IDF troops shot and killed a second gunman who had been involved in Saturday's ambush attempt.

Brig-Gen. Eli Amitai, head of the IDF's Lebanese Liaison Unit, and a radioman in the convoy were lightly wounded when it was hit by the gunmen. Their wounds did not prevent them from participating in the ensuing gunfight in which the soldiers charged the attackers, killing one and wounding another.

The wounded gunman was discovered later in a search of the scene of the clash yesterday and was killed when he tried to resist capture.

Amitai returned to the scene, on the Ishiyeh-Rehan road in the eastern sector of the zone, with OC Northern Command Maj-Gen. Amiram Levine and other senior officers. Levine told reporters it is clear Hizbullah was not responsible for the Katyusha rocket attack on Western Galilee on Friday night.

"About three rockets were fired from the area of Kleileh village [north of the zone] at Western Galilee. The firing was perpetrated by one or more Palestinian groups, either the PFLP of George Habash or Jibril's organization with the participation of Amal activists," said Levine.

"In any case, the area is under

the control of the Lebanese government and the Lebanese Army, and this is the most flagrant breach of the Grapes of Wrath understandings," he said.

Levine emphasized what he described as the "enormous difference" between "accidental and regrettable" incidents in which Lebanese civilians were harmed as a result of IDF return fire and terrorist rocket attacks deliberately aimed at civilian targets in the Galilee.

Israel has complained to the Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee over the rocket attacks. The committee is to meet at UNIFIL headquarters in Nakoura today to discuss the matter.

Levine said the Hizbullah ambush on the IDF convoy had been carefully planned and executed by two or three squads of gunmen, hiding among rocks and trees lining the road.

He praised the fast, professional response of the officers and soldiers in the patrol, who counterattacked immediately, despite a withering hail of machine gun, light weapons, and anti-tank fire.

"Neither [Amitai or the radioman] even noticed their injuries and continued the charge and searches until nightfall, and only afterwards were they sent for examination and treatment," said Levine. "This is how to act and this is how we expect our officers and our soldiers to act," he said.

"The soldiers acted quickly, with determination and courage... The force charged and killed one of the gunmen, who had fired from a distance of about 150 meters. Another squad had fired from

PM, Arafat talk to ease tensions

DAVID MAKOVSKY and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

PALESTINIAN Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat phoned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last night in an apparent bid by both to calm tensions in the aftermath of recent violence, a cabinet decision to extend financial incentives to settlers, and charges by both sides that the other is out to undermine peace.

Arafat's call came as top negotiator Yitzhak Molcho and cabinet secretary Danny Naveh met last night with Arafat in Gaza.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office last night, the two sides discussed prospects of moving forward on the Hebron talks. Earlier in the day Arafat reportedly had rejected a visit by Molcho to Gaza, saying it would not lead anywhere.

Molcho apparently briefed Arafat on Friday's cabinet decision to provide financial incentives to settlers.

Foreign Minister David Levy is to brief the Jordanians on this decision in Amman tomorrow and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is to travel to Cairo for the same purpose on Wednesday.

US Consul-General Edward Abington is expected to meet with Arafat today.

During the phone call, Arafat expressed sorrow for the killings (Continued on Page 9)

Much ado about a 'fence'

HERB KEINON

A NEW fence that Channel 1 reported was put up yesterday in Beit El as the first step toward new building in the settlement was dismissed by settlement leaders as being only an eruv, an halachic device that enables observant Jews to carry on Shabbat.

Channel 1 said that the fence, erected yesterday, was meant to define an area near the adjacent army base where construction will soon take place.

But Yoav Barak, secretary of Beit El Bet, said that he knows of no plans to build at the site, and that he believes the fence was only an eruv. He said that eruvim can take all types of forms, including a fence, and are not always a piece of wire tied toward the top of high polls.

Aharon Domb, the general-secretary of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, said that at first the fence was a "local initiative" by a couple of residents who wanted to create the impression that construction in the settlement is taking place.

A few minutes later Domb amended his comments, saying that after looking into the matter further, he found the fence is indeed an eruv. He sent messages to reporters saying, "An eruv is meant to enable carrying objects on Shabbat, and not for the purpose of conquering the land."

Children seek to put mom on ice

THE strange tale of a brother and sister who wish to freeze their mother's body, in case scientists discover a way to bring back the dead, emerged in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Moshe Be'eri, son of the deceased Miriam Astrovitz, explained the reason for the extraordinary request.

"We love our mother and find it hard to part from her," he said after the hearing. "We had a special relationship with her and this is the only way to bring her back to life."

When asked how his mother could rise from the dead, he answered: "At the moment it is impossible, but in the future, with the help of modern science, it will

RAINE MARCUS

be possible."

Now Moshe and his sister Rachel have two days to determine whether the Alaskan authorities will agree to bury Astrovitz in an iceberg in Alaska.

Astrovitz died on December 3, and since then her body has been kept in a refrigerator in Wolfson Hospital. If the Alaskan arrangement does not work out, the siblings wish to bury her here in formalin and ice to preserve her body, in the hope that one day scientists may find the formula to bring her back to life. The court ruled that all sides should examine the possibility of burying Astrovitz in formalin and ice until a final decision is made.

The matter was brought up by police, who asked Judge Amiram Binymami to issue a court order, demanding that the deceased's family bury her in the traditional Jewish fashion.

During a somewhat stormy debate, Health Ministry representative Dr. Avital Cohen insisted that she would not agree to the body being kept on ice here.

"It is impossible to freeze the body now because too much time has elapsed since the time of death," she argued. "Bodies should be frozen directly after death."

Israeli law states that bodies must be buried within 48 hours of (Continued on Page 9)

Israel beats Luxembourg 1-0

DEREK FAITAL

A LATE first-half goal by veteran Eli Ohana was enough to secure a vital 1-0 Israeli victory over Luxembourg in last night's Group 5 World Cup qualifier played at the National Stadium Ramat Gan.

The three points gained propelled Israel back into second position in the group.
Story, Page 10

Red Sea International Music Festival
Eilat, Arabia

Maestro Valery Gergiev

The Orchestra and Choir of "Kirov" Opera House - St. Petersburg

"The fire of Toscanini, the finesse of Abbado, the flamboyance of Celibidache... Gergiev is a powerful generator of music"

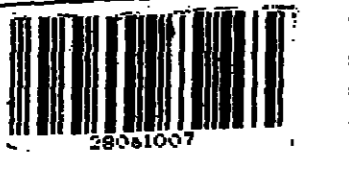
Thursday 21.12 at 20:30 Arabia, Jordan: Opening Festive Concert, Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan. Shalika Shalika (Old Zakhari words) commissioned in honor of Peace Messias; Night on a Bald Mountain; Rimski-Korsakov: Scheherazade; Ippolitov-Ivanov: Caucasian Sketches.
Friday 22.12 at 21:00 - Eilat: Festive Concert, Romeo and Juliet in Music.
Saturday 23.12 at 20:00 - Eilat: Verdi: Requiem; Shostakovich: Sinfonia Spesso; Scriabin: Massna; Tchaikovsky, mezzo soprano; Gagan Gaganina, mezzo soprano; Shostakovich: More Concertos in 11th; A-Cappella - "Time" Open Choir, at 18:00 Concert of Musicians.
Sunday 24.12 at 16:00 - Eilat: A Family Concert; Byzantine Polovian Dances from Prince Igor; Prokofiev: Peter and the Wolf.

For tickets only please call: Moscow, 93 Dzhengoff, tel. 05-5276677, with credit cards and group orders. Eilat/Be'er-Sheva, tel. 05-5227847. Haifa/Be'er-Sheva, tel. 05-5400751-2. Lod, tel. 05-3270545. Hadera, tel. 05-5277777. Caesarea, tel. 05-6644725. Jerusalem, Kefar Sava, tel. 02-6256809. Bnei Brak, tel. 02-6240096. Haifa, Gush, tel. 04-8384777. Eilat, Tourist Information Center, corner of Derech Be'er-Sheva and Yotam, 07-677211

15% OFF
For American Express Card holders

AMERICAN EXPRESS

There is only one American Express.



Jerusalem Post Subscription Sales and Service 177-022-2275

Artist: Valery Gergiev
9-12 Jan. 1997

Handwritten: *177-022-2275*

MDA files brief against closing station in TA

JUDY SIEGEL

MAGEN David Adom has filed a defensive brief with the Tel Aviv District Court asking it to reject the Tel Aviv Municipality's demand for the closure of the MDA station on Rehov Alkalai in north Tel Aviv.

MDA's lawyers said the municipality owes MDA NIS 1.5 million for operating expenses of its mobile intensive care unit in the city, which the municipality is supposed to help cover. MDA management asked the municipality to deduct this debt from MDA's debt in leasing charges for the north Tel Aviv station property. However, the city refused to make this trade-off, and as a result, the station is due to close.

The MDA spokesman said, "apparently, the Tel Aviv Municipality decided that city residents aren't entitled to the vital life-saving services of the station, and hundreds of them are liable to lose their lives in an emergency as a result."

He added that more than half of the sum demanded in leasing charges need not be paid because they involved debts of many years ago.

Meanwhile, the MICU in Western Galilee remains out of commission due to debts by the local authorities. Nahariya Government Hospital and Kupat Holim Clalit. As a result, 57 calls for medical help that required treatment by an MICU in recent days were treated by an ordinary ambulance, MDA said yesterday.

MICUs are manned by doctors and specially trained paramedics, and contain sophisticated resuscitation equipment that is unavailable on a regular ambulance. The Katyusha attacks in the North over the weekend highlighted the urgency of reinstating MICU service, MDA said, but the organization cannot afford to do so unless the local authorities, the hospital and the health fund pay their debts.

Kazakhstan children undergoing cosmetic surgery at Soroka

JUDY SIEGEL

SIX children from the republic of Kazakhstan have arrived at Beersheba's Soroka Hospital to undergo cosmetic surgery for congenital defects such as a cleft palate and lip. Due to lack of facilities and awareness in their own country, the children were not treated as babies, said Prof. Lior Rosenberg of Soroka's maxillofacial surgery department.

The cost of the treatment is being covered by a fund established by the president of

Kazakhstan, the Kazakh Embassy in Israel, the Metek Metal Technology company (which sets up refineries and petroleum fields in Kazakhstan), Kupat Holim Clalit's international relations department and Soroka.

Additional children will be treated here, as well as in Kazakhstan by Israeli doctors, who will train local physicians in the surgery. A team led by Rosenberg is due to fly to the CIS republic in the summer to train local doctors.

Former cancer patient gives birth to twins

JUDY SIEGEL

A 28-YEAR-OLD Jerusalem woman who two years ago was suffering from cancer of the endometrium (lining of the uterus) has given birth to healthy twins after undergoing conservative treatment that eliminated the tumor.

Getting endometrial cancer at such a young age is rare; in older women, the standard treatment is to remove the uterus. Because the patient was married but had not yet had children, Dr. Uzi Beller, head of Shaare Zedek Hospital's surgical and oncological gynecology unit, offered to use a technique that would not make her infertile.

Over several months, she

received the hormone progesterone under successful supervision. When the tumor was removed via the cervix using an electric scalpel with the aid of an optic fiber. Since it was a large cancerous growth, doctors had to do this in two stages over a period of two months.

After Beller saw that the treatment had succeeded and the uterus was completely normal, she was allowed to get pregnant. But because of fertility problems, she underwent in-vitro fertilization at the hospital and two weeks ago delivered the twins. The mother is in excellent condition.

Beller said that advances in treatment of gynecological cancers and fertility treatments allow young women suffering from such tumors the chance of having children.



Former Lehi member Yusuf Abu Ghosh is carried to his final resting place yesterday in the village that bears his name. (Ariel Jeruzalmi)

Lehi fighter Abu Ghosh dead at 77

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE funeral of Yusuf Abu Ghosh, a former Arab member of Lehi (otherwise known as the Stern group), took place yesterday in the village of Abu Ghosh outside Jerusalem. He was 77.

Abu Ghosh was best known for the part he played in freeing former MK Geula Cohen from jail in Jerusalem's Russian Compound after she had been sentenced to nine years' imprisonment by the British mandatory authorities for operating the Lehi radio and carrying arms.

In her book, *Story of a Fighter*, Cohen told how Yusuf Abu Ghosh and two other Arabs - Yehonatan Abu Ghosh, as well as a Jewish girl dressed as an Arab, had

entered the prison on the pretext of visiting an Abu Ghosh resident being held there. The four brought in a bundle of "laundry," including an Arab woman's outfit and smuggled it into the showers, where Cohen put on the clothes and veil, and then made her getaway.

The girl and one of the three Arabs engaged a warden in conversation, while the other two staged a diversionary quarrel.

They hit each other so realistically, even turning on the British, that they were arrested.

When it was discovered that Cohen was no longer in the shower, the alarm was

sounded - but meanwhile the girl and the Arab had left. Yusuf Abu Ghosh and a cousin, Abdul Salem Abu Ghosh, were held, interrogated, and beaten, but did not break.

In 1951, after having disappeared and returned from Nablus, then under Jordanian rule, Yusuf Abu Ghosh served 18 months' imprisonment for the attempted murder of his cousin, Abdul Salem, apparently because the latter had decided to support an Arab party affiliated with Mapai in the general elections of 1949, rather than the Lehi list. The two were later reconciled in a suit.

The deceased left a widow, a son, two daughters, and numerous grandchildren.

Policeman to be indicted for slapping Arab

THE Justice Ministry's police investigation division has recommended indicting a border policeman who allegedly struck an Arab in the courtyard of the Beersheba police station last month. According to the ministry's investigation, the policeman slapped the Arab when he asked for a drink of water, and then threatened to "get" him if he told anyone. Evelyn Gordon

Soldier dies of rat-bite rabies

JUDY SIEGEL

A 19-YEAR-OLD soldier, Rafi Tal of Netanya, died yesterday at Sheba Hospital of rabies, two months after being bitten on the lip by an unidentified animal - believed to be a rat - in his army tent. It was the first reported case of a rat spreading the disease to humans, and the first case in 39 years of an Israeli contracting and succumbing to rabies.

Although the rabid animal had not been caught and examined, the Acre district health office decided against immunizing the soldier against rabies, which would undoubtedly have saved him. Weeks after the bite, he was brought to Hillel Yoffe Hospital in Hadera, and when he lost consciousness, he was transferred to the Tel Hashomer hospital.

Blood and saliva samples were sent to the Pasteur Institute in Paris for confirmation of the diagnosis, as local labs lacked the ability to confirm it, and local doctors themselves were able to reach a diagnosis only on the basis of textbook descriptions, as they had never seen a case before.

For the last month of his life, Tal was unconscious and attached to a respirator, as there is no effective treatment once the incubation stage ends and the actual symptoms of the disease appear. People who had been in direct contact with him were vaccinated as well, as the virus can theoretically spread from an infected person to another by a kiss.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza yesterday

received the recommendations of a ministry-appointed team that looked into the tragic event. They reported that the district health office physician who made the family decision based it on the soldier's account that he was bitten by a small animal - such as a mouse or rat - which have not been involved in spreading rabies in this country.

The ministry decided to expand the definition of "bites by an unidentified animal" to include all mammals, even small ones such as rodents, because they could be infected by rabies. It will hold seminars for staffers and refresh their memories on dealing with animal bites, as well as expand its program of giving anti-rabies vaccine to wild and domesticated animals.

Meanwhile, the Israel Anti-Vivisection Society issued a statement, declaring that leaving anti-rabies vaccine on bait for wild animals was the best way to combat rabies in the animal population. The society charged that the oral vaccine, recommended by the World Health Organization, was offered to Israel free by Germany, but that it was refused by the Agriculture Ministry's chief veterinarian, who "prefers to kill off tens of thousands of stray dogs and cats for fear that they were infected by foxes." The society added that such a policy was not only cruel, but unnecessary, as only 3 percent of animals that were put down were found in pathological exams of their brains to have been rabid.

When in doubt, vaccinate

BACKGROUND
JUDY SIEGEL

RABIES, spread by a virus in the saliva, can theoretically be contracted via bites or scratches by any mammal - from dogs, jackals, foxes, and cats to skunks, cows, weasels, and even small rodents. Dr. Jacob Assaf, an internal medicine specialist and director of the emergency department at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, said yesterday that anti-rabies vaccine should be given immediately if there is any possibility a rabid animal was involved.

"I don't have information on this specific case," Assaf said, but the principles are that someone who has been bitten or scratched by a mammal that ran away - in a region where rabies is known to exist - should be vaccinated.

Years ago, getting anti-rabies shots was a near-nightmare, consisting of a series of painful shots into the abdomen. Today, while not pleasant, anti-rabies vaccine is given in the arm, one injection with passive vaccine and the rest (usually five) active vaccine. The risk of complications is small.

"I signed forms for administering two rabies shots just today," Assaf said. "Soldiers who are in contact with animals, even those who remove the body of a donkey, are the most common recipients of the shots."

The initial symptoms of rabies are misleading, as they are very similar to that of influenza: a headache, sore throat, weakness, tiredness, and nausea. But these develop into a variety of frightening neurological, muscular, and other symptoms, including muscle spasms, respiratory and swallowing difficulties, excessive salivation, and reduced blood pressure.

In addition, there may also be psychological symptoms, including aggressiveness or depressive behavior and hallucinations. The symptoms in humans are very similar to those that appear in a rabid dog, and death is very painful if the patient is conscious.

Assaf says he himself has never seen a person with rabies, and that experience with the disease - almost totally confined to the Third World - is minimal.

<http://www.bankhapoalim.co.il>
LINK UP WITH THE LEADER

Bank Hapoalim announces the opening of its newest location: in cyberspace.

Our English-language supersite delivers up-to-date information about virtually every bank department and service, along with fresh data about the Israeli economy. It's a great resource for investors, traders, businesspeople, tourists, foreign residents, and the entire worldwide financial community.

So whether you're thinking of buying a home in Israel, partnering with an Israeli company, trading in Israeli currency, or investing in shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, this is one place in cyberspace you'll want to visit regularly.

Think of it as your personal on-line information bank.



KESHER BARCEL

8TH SPEAK HEBREW IN TWO WEEKS!

- ★ One-on-one instruction in the Old City of Safed.
- ★ Six hours a day of intensive study
- ★ Beginning and advanced levels

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE \$380 per week - includes private tutor, room, half-board, and health insurance

Other options available - Private room, travel, tours, and additional learning

For more info and an application form, contact:

ASCENT, P.O.B. 296, 2 Ha'aral St., Safed, 15102, Tel. 06-662 1364, Fax. 06-662 1842, e-mail: ascent@ectoom.co.il

ANIGRAFIX Ltd

OPENING Open House
Dec. 16, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

DEMOS, LECTURES, GIVEAWAYS

COURSES STARTING

- MS Office Pro: Sun. Dec. 22 (Word, Excel, Access, Powerpoint)
- CorelDRAW: Thur. Dec. 12
- Multimedia (Director): Mon. Dec. 23
- VISUAL BASIC: Tues. Dec. 24
- INTERNET: Fri. a.m. Dec. 27

More than merely private,
Swiss Private Banking

Benefit of our long tradition,
Provide our clients worldwide
With financial analysis
and investment counselling services.
With the highest professional
standards of security,
discretion and performance.

Bank Heusser, Basel
Private Banking / Asset Management
Since 1855.

St. Alban-Vorstadt 58, CH-4010 Basel
A member of the CS Holding Group

Mr. Josef Hess, delegate,
will be on his monthly visit to Israel
from December 16 to 19.
Direct dialing 050-298-764 or
in Switzerland 0041-61-272 95 25
Fax 0041-61-272 95 33

For registered investors only

THE JERUSALEM POST

F. DAVID RADLER Chairman, Board of Directors
YEHUDA LEVY, President & Publisher

JEFF BARAK, Editor
CARL SCHRAG, Managing Editor
AMOTZ ASA-EL, Associate Editor, Business
DAN IZENBERG, News Editor
DAVID BRINN, Night Editor
SAM ORBAUM, Features Editor
THOMAS O'DWYER, Foreign Editor
JUDY MONTAGU, Op-Ed Editor

AVI GOLAN, Executive Vice President, Marketing & Advertising
PAUL STASZEWSKI, CPA, Vice President, Finance
YOSSI HORN, Vice President, Production
STANLEY SCHRAGER, Circulation Manager
BENZION MILLER, Tel Aviv Office Manager

Founded in 1932 by GERSHON AGRON

EDITORIAL OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION The Jerusalem Post Building, P.O. Box 81, Romema, Jerusalem 91000
Telephone 02-531-5666, Fax 02-538-9577. CIRCULATION— 02-531-5610. Fax 02-538-9017. ADVERTISING— 02-531-5608.

Netanyahu's political overdraft

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu began his term of office six months ago after having defied the opinion polls, the press, and international onlookers to become the first directly elected prime minister in Israel's history.

About bygones

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

THIS week Germany and the Czech Republic will be initiating a declaration of reconciliation formally terminating the longstanding disagreement between them.

1938 and the brutality with which three million Germans were expelled from the Sudetenland by the Czechs after World War II. It will have purely symbolic value, since the damage the Germans did during the war cannot be undone, and the Czechs have no intention of letting the Germans back into their country.

Dry Bones



of government. Such an adviser might stop our prime minister making a fool of himself and insulting a variety of innocent peoples (Puerto Ricans, Andorrans and Czechs) around the world, as well as confusing the Palestinians as to what he intends regarding their futures.

Ms. Buzaglo & Ms. Bernstein

SUSAN BELLOS

EVERY now and again there is a small public squeak about ethnic discrimination in Israeli schools.

interesting notion that non-Western Jewish Israeli children think differently from their Ashkenazi peers.

istry and these networks, especially Shas, regarding the schooling of the country's poorest people.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SELECTIVE CHOICE

Sir, - It is embarrassing to catch out the former Chief Rabbi of Great Britain and the Commonwealth in a sleight-of-hand manipulation of Jewish sources whereby he selectively chooses his prayers.

SHELTER FOR HAREDI WOMEN

Sir, - In the course of her interesting article of December 2, Amy Klein writes: "There is no shelter for battered hardi women where this mother of 12 could have gone."

THE STONE OF SCONE

Sir, - On December 1, The Jerusalem Post published an AP report about the return of the Stone of Scone to Scotland, seven centuries after it was captured by Edward I in 1296 and taken to Westminster Abbey in London.

BAR CRITICISM

Sir, - I could not believe my American-oriented eyes when I read your recent report of the scathing attack on Mr. Hater-Yishai, the Israel Bar Association chairman.

POOR PUBLIC RELATIONS

Sir, - During the last few decades, Arafat and his henchmen have been and still are winning the PR war. Israel has always been pathetic in the conduct of its public relations.

Plain peace is out, PeacePlus is in

SI FRUMKIN

THERE'S a word for those who expect to be paid for giving love, and it isn't complimentary. Substitute peace for love and it's equally true for former enemies.

victors in a defensive war are widely expected to appease and reward the losers, those who were the aggressors in the first place.

enough that no Jordanian soldiers will die from Israeli bullets in future wars? That there will be contacts, negotiations, trade, exchanges - peace, just peace? Must it be PeacePlus? And if it must, surely it is axiomatic that it should work both ways?

YISAEI MEDAD Shiloh

PROFESSOR JUSTIN SWEET Jerusalem (Berkeley)

BILL OAKFIELD Netanya

LESLIE M. RAYNER Tel Aviv (Hove, England)

A RECENT article in the Los

The writer lives in Studio City, California.

مكتبة

Sitting Pretty

Is This What Women Want?

By STEVEN A. HOLMES

WASHINGTON
THREE years from the end of the millennium, and a more than a century after Ibsen's "A Doll's House" pre-empted women's modern emancipation, the question still vexes: How much power do women really wield?

This year, American women put on the most stunning display of political clout since they won suffrage 76 years ago. More women than ever registered and voted, and on the strength of their votes, President Clinton was re-elected. The growing voice of the angry white man was drowned out by the softer tone of the soccer mom, and issues like family leave and day care were forced into the political debate while abortion was forced out.

And politics is just the start. Women are increasingly courted by designers of homes and makers of cars. The purveyors of popular culture, from books to movies to prime-time television shows and the Summer Olympics, are struggling to appeal to what they think are feminine tastes. Prime-time television is full of shows like "Roseanne," "Cybill," "Ellen" and "Suddenly Susan." Movies like "Waiting to Exhale" and "The First Wives Club" are designed to draw in angry women. Jokes about men behaving badly are rampant,

while snickering about premenstrual syndrome is all but verboten. Houses are now built with larger kitchens and bathrooms. And doctors are being taught bedside manner, because women asked for it. If this does not signal feminine power, then what does?

In hushed tones some feminists and scholars, fearful of frightening men and of ending the revolution by declaring it won, tentatively call this change "gender creep." With women already the majority of voters and poised to become a majority of the work force, society is changing so radically that the much-talked-about feminization of American politics is looking like but one piece of the feminization of American culture.

"It's like a silent revolution," said Linda Tarr-Whelan, president and C.E.O. of the Center for Policy Alternatives, a feminist research organization based in Washington. "It's nonviolent at its core, but it's a very important transformation."

But is it the kind of revolution feminists envisioned when the modern women's movement began, with the publication of Betty Friedan's "The Feminine Mystique" in 1963? Does the feminization of politics and culture mean that women now have more power? Or is it just a slick bit of salesmanship, an attempt to make women whistle while they do all the housework?

Early feminists envisioned women moving en masse into leadership roles in government

Continued on page 3

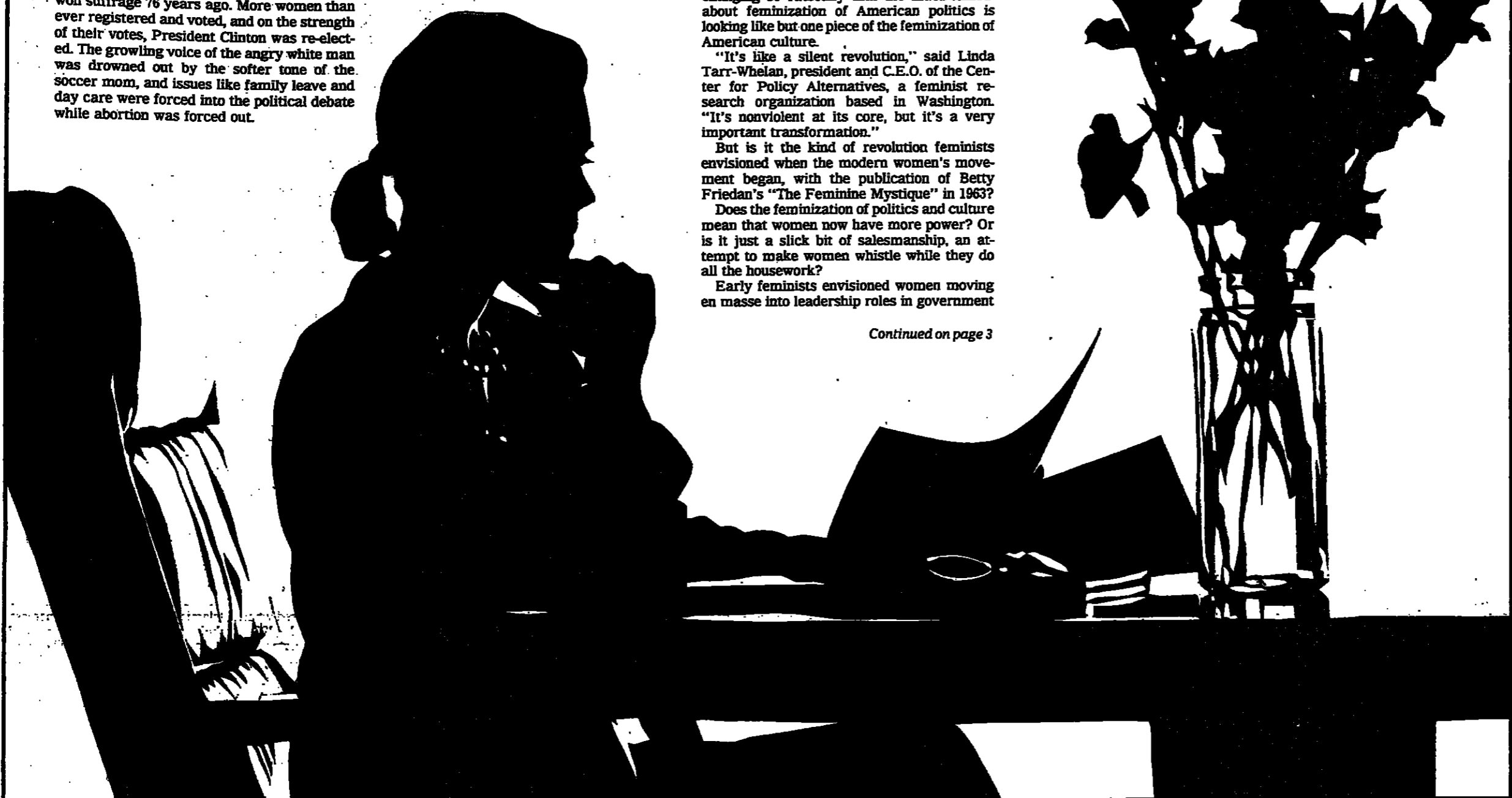


Illustration from photograph by Gabe Palmer/The Stock Market

Broadcast News

In Spanish, It's Another Story

By LARRY ROHTER

MIAMI
ONE Friday early this month, ABC, CBS and NBC all began their nightly newscasts with the same story: the testimony of Nicole Brown Simpson's mother at the latest O. J. Simpson trial.

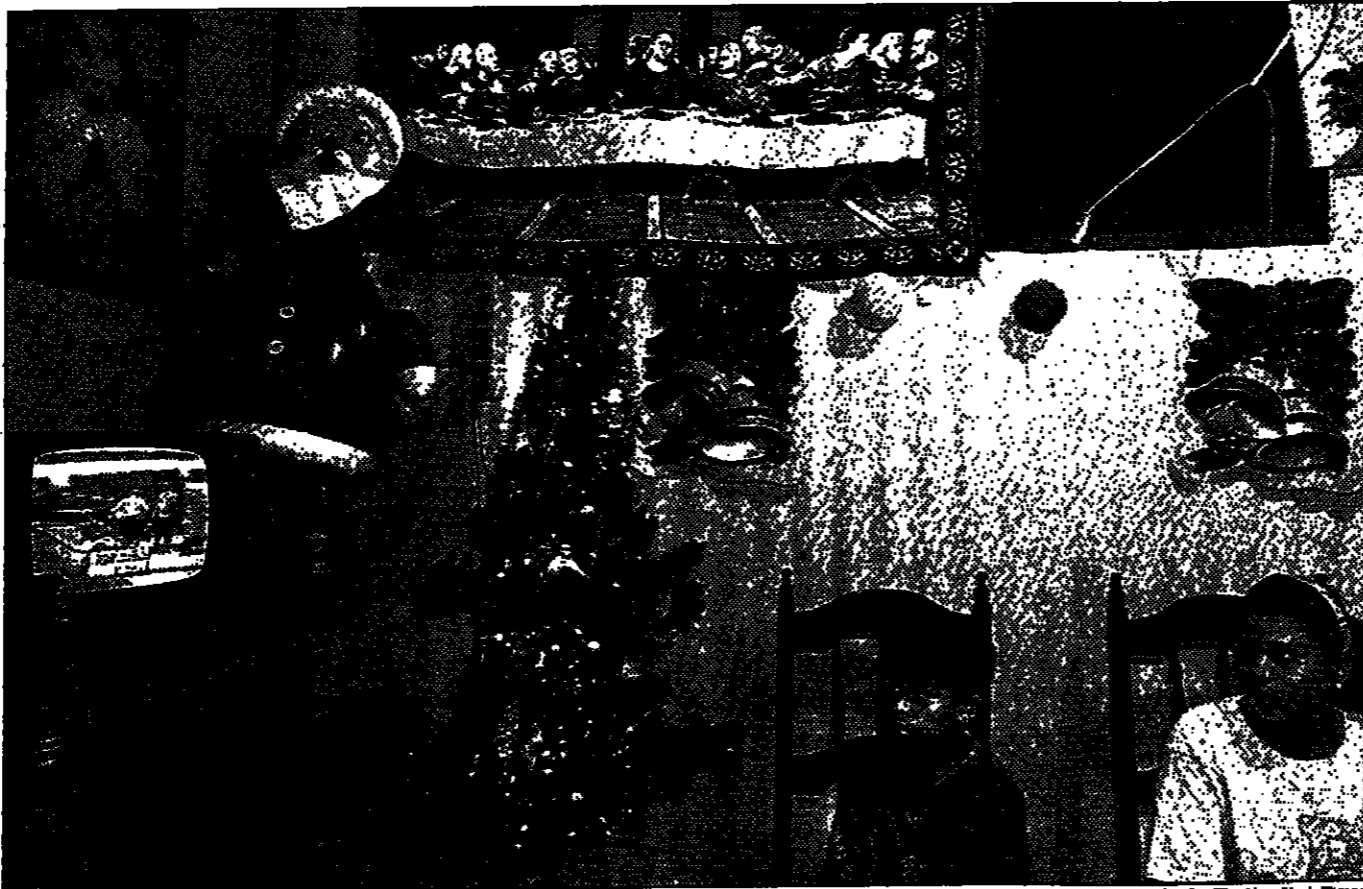
Two other American networks, though, did not report that news until well after the first commercial break. Instead, they opened with a story that was less sensational but of more significance to their viewers: the Mexican Senate's approval of legislation that would allow Mexicans who become American citizens to have dual nationality.

The United States looks like a different country — less self-absorbed and self-contained, and more a member of a community of nations — when it is seen through the Spanish-language television newscasts of Univisión and Telemundo, networks that are helping transform Spanish-speaking immigrants into an entity called "Hispanics."

At the same time, these networks, based here in Miami, play a role more intricate than that of their English-language counterparts. Not only do they track and explain developments in the United States and Latin America to this country's potential 25 million Hispanic viewers, but they have also become one of the main prisms through which Latin Americans throughout the hemisphere view their own countries.

Another World

"Even though ABC calls its broadcast 'World News Tonight,' what I see when I look at any of the English-language networks is not the world," said Jorge Ramos, a Mexican who, along with María Elena Salinas, anchors "Noticiero Univisión," the most influential and highest rated Spanish-language news program in the United States. "If you compare the kind of world that we cover in comparison to what they have in mind, you'll definitely see that our world is broader and more complex, with a very different perspective."



Univisión's newscast is also seen in Managua, Nicaragua, where the Herubey family tuned in one evening last week.

According to a 1994 study published by the University of Texas College of Communications, 45 percent of a typical Noticiero Univisión broadcast deals with events in Latin America, as compared with less than 2 percent of the main nightly newscast at ABC, which features more international news than either CBS or NBC.

Even when Univisión and Telemundo cover the same stories as the Big Three, they do so in a strikingly different manner. In general, stories on the two Spanish-language networks tend to be "longer, with more depth and more analysis than what you see on any of the English-

language networks," said Gonzalo Soruco, a professor of mass communication at the University of Miami who is currently working on a book to be titled "The Evolution of Spanish-Language Television in the United States."

More Bang for the Buck

In part, that is simply a function of economics: since the Univisión news budget is about three percent of any of the Big Three, there are fewer reporters to fill the same amount of air time, so longer stories guarantee more bang for the buck. But both networks are influenced

by Latin American traditions of journalism, which, Dr. Soruco pointed out, "prescribe more analysis" and a clear point of view.

At Univisión, at least, the nature of that mission is clear to reporters.

"We give a voice to those who have no voice in English and are absent from the major networks, newspapers and magazines," Mr. Ramos said. "We never forget where we come from."

In a separate interview, Ms. Salinas, who was born in California, put it this way: "We are the eyes and ears for

Continued on page 4

Blazing Three Trails

Putting in a good word for the Indian reservation.



By Anthony DePalma

2

Belarus Big Macs

One country that may not be ready for McDonald's.

By Steven Erlanger

4

Drunken Driving

No one's talking about it now. Just doing it.

By Matthew L. Wald

3



Ideas & Trends

Three Countries Face Their Indians

By ANTHONY DePALMA

TORONTO BACK when it thought it knew best what Indians needed, the Canadian Government decided that a few hundred nomadic hunters who lived in canvas tents in Labrador would be better off in brand new wooden houses.

The Mushuau Innu were moved to new houses built for them in 1967. But in a short time, many of the interior walls were destroyed. The Indians had tried to rip them out because they knew that one big room was easier to heat than several small ones.

A huge cultural gap still separates Indians and the rest of society, not just in Canada but throughout North America. Some 12 million people — called "aboriginals" in Canada, "indigenous people" in Mexico and "Native Americans" in the United States — struggle to live their own lives inside structures built for them by outsiders who thought they knew best.

The three nations of North America were founded on Indian conquests, but in recent years they have dealt with the remnants of their native populations in widely different ways. Canada has tried to break a century of paternalism with billions of dollars in Government aid and huge socioeconomic studies. The United States, having long ago recognized Indians as separate nations, has largely treated them with neglect. And in Mexico, contempt for the Indian population — by far the largest in North America — helped spur a revolution.

But money and attention may not lead to better lives for Indians. The real key seems to be self-government. Several studies have proven that the more power a tribe or nation has to make its own decisions, the greater chance it has of thriving.

Did Reservations Help?

It is the Native Americans in the United States who have been able to achieve the greatest degrees of independence and economic achievement, in large part because the hated reservation system established in the last century provided things now recognized as essential for self-government.

Joseph P. Kalt, a Harvard professor who has studied reservation economics for a decade, said the large Western reservations gave some tribes "a land base over which sovereignty can be effectively organized."

Professor Kalt said other factors also promoted political organization. The Federal Government helped most tribes write their own constitutions, enabling them to establish their own legislatures, executive branches and, in some cases, justice systems.

Then the Indian activism of the 1970's, marked by deadly showdowns at Wounded Knee and other sites, pushed the tribes away from both the Federal Government and the fledgling national Indian movement. Instead, they turned inward to tribal leadership. And where that leadership was strongest, economic development followed.

Deep pockets of poverty endure among the 300 or so reservations. But a study by Professor Kalt and Stephen Cornell of the University of California at San Diego found that, while still rare, there are successful Indian development projects, and they're not just bingo and casinos.

For example, the Choctaw of Philadelphia, Miss., have created jobs not only for most of their own people but for 1,000 non-Indians who enter the reservation to work in factories making plastic utensils for McDonald's restaurants, electrical wiring assemblies for automobile plants and greeting cards. The Salish and Kootenai tribes of the Flathead Reservation in Montana have achieved an unemployment rate below the rest of rural Montana by focusing on agriculture, tourism and recreation jobs.

"Successful tribes are marked by what we call the 'Nike strategy,'" Professor Kalt said. "They build their own institutions and their own bureaucracies, displace the Federal Government as primary decision maker on the reservations and then just do it themselves."

Some reservations in the United States sprawl across state lines and provide a base for independence that Indians in Mexico and

Canada will find difficult to match.

Canada has 633 Indian reserves, most so small that any attempt to consider them sovereign nations falls flat. In Mexico, Indian communities often adhere to boundaries established before European contact and are usually small, isolated and desperately poor.

There remain sharp debates across North America about the right thing to do for Indians. While no government today would knowingly take Canada's paternalistic approach, there is a strong, though not always publicly expressed opinion, that the Indians themselves are to blame for their condition.

Conflicts over fishing, hunting, land claims and other grievances are constant in all three nations, and occasionally resentment by non-Indians burns through. "They are using up whatever good will there was," David Olmstead, a Liberal party member said in a recent speech before the provincial legislature of New Brunswick. Mr. Olmstead said he was fed up with Indians portraying themselves as victims of white domination. Other members of his party quickly distanced themselves, but Mr. Olmstead insisted that he had only expressed what many felt but were afraid to say.

Spirituality Still Sells

Public perceptions of Indians seem split. The gelled-lens vision of mystical Indian spirituality still sells well, and in all three countries far more people now want to identify themselves as Indians than are classified that way by their governments. But there is a question of how legitimate some of those claims are. For example, the number of people in New Jersey who identified themselves as Indian in the 1990 census had increased 78 percent from 1980.

And in Mexico City, heroic statues of Indians grace the main boulevards, but racist attitudes keep Indians from going to classy restaurants, even if they could somehow afford to eat in them.

Mexico is where the recent clash for Indian autonomy, ruxed with complex political overtones, has been most bloody. Zapatistas of the poor, southernmost state of Chiapas launched a rebellion in the pre-dawn hours of Jan. 1, 1994, the same day that the North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect. Their initial attacks left nearly 200 dead, and they declared Nafta "a death sentence" for Mexico's 10 million Indians.

The Zapatistas, who gained popular support throughout Mexico and focused attention on the mistreatment of Indians, have suspended peace talks with the Government until there is action on a constitutional guarantee of more self-government, including the right to redraw county boundaries and to use traditional ways of electing officials (by a show of hands instead of a secret ballot).

Violence also ignited change in Canada. After a standoff between the Canadian Army and Mohawk Indians six years ago, Brian Mulroney, who was Prime Minister then, promised a full study of Canada's troubled relationship with its Indians and Eskimos.

The Remedy: Autonomy

When the report was finally released last month, it included 440 recommendations, foremost being recognition of Indian bands as the sovereign nations with which earlier Canadian governments had signed binding treaties. It noted that the appalling conditions on many Indian reserves were due to the lack of economic opportunities. It also found that the degree of political autonomy and endowment of land for Indians in Canada was far behind that in the United States.

After self-government, the most important goal of most Indians is control of their land. The Chiapas conflict was in great measure about land. In Canada, officials say there are 100 pending land claims covering great stretches of every province. The few settlements already made have brought sudden wealth to those Indian communities.

Zebedee Nungak is a leader of the Inuk of northern Quebec, who formed their own corporation to sign off on all business deals on the territory granted them as part of the James Bay Cree settlement in 1975. Mr. Nungak said the Inuk already owned three local airlines and planned to open four plants to process caribou meat.



Mixe Indians in Oaxaca, Mexico, hold a ceremony for the end of the harvest.



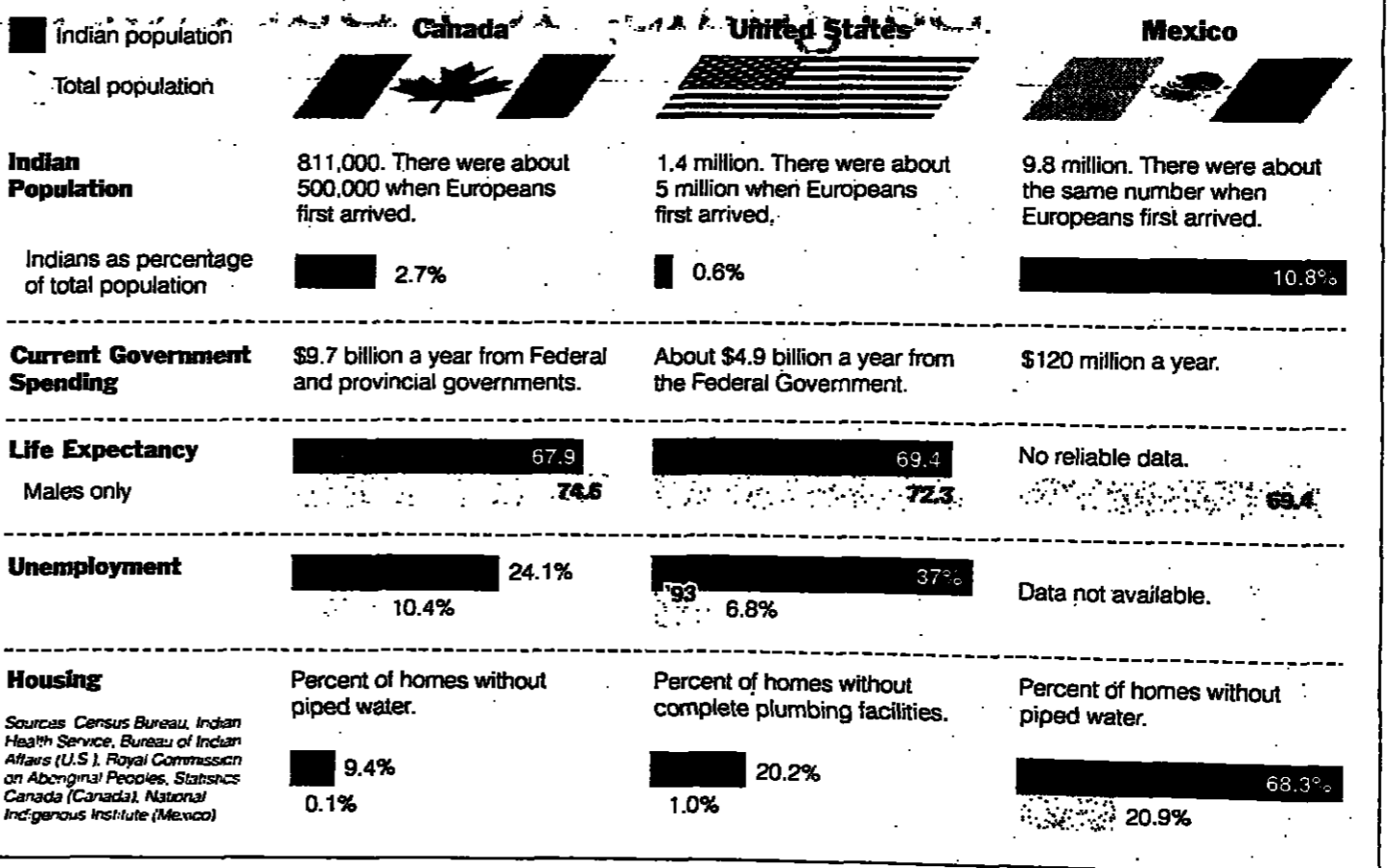
A Cree family in Whapmagoostui, Canada.



A football game at a Sioux reservation in South Dakota.

Native Americans, From Monterrey to Manitoba

Data are for 1991 for Canada and 1990 for Mexico and the United States, except where noted.



"Up to 75 percent of our food still comes from wildlife," Mr. Nungak said. But, he said, the Inuk drive trucks and fly planes: "We're not living in igloos or driving dog sledges any more."

That, many Indian leaders say, is the greatest challenge they face: honoring the

past but surviving in changing times.

One big change is already underway in Canada. In 1999, the vast Northwest Territories will be split in two, and the eastern half will become a new territory called Nunavut. Because most people living in the cold and inhospitable area are Inuit, or Eskimos, they

will have de facto control of the new territory, making Nunavut not a separate nation but the only major part of a North American government run by native people. This experiment, watched with great interest by Indians all over, may be the ultimate test of self-government.

Of Stocks and Speculation

When the Market Is Too Good to Be Good

By LOUIS UCHITELLE

IN the American economy of the 1990's, good news so often turns sour. As employment rises, so do interest rates, to temper the high spirits and keep inflation in check. People buy like crazy and retail sales rise, but once again the response is a nervous concern that too much prosperity will unbalance the economy.

Stock prices had escaped this adverse reaction, going up month after month, and carrying the middle class — with its huge investment in mutual funds — to new levels of wealth on paper. And then the booming stock market, too, became a liability to the economy.

Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, blew the whistle with his now-famous reference in a speech on Dec. 5 to "irrational exuberance." He did not claim that irrational exuberance had actually infected stock trading, driving up prices in pure speculation beyond their true value. He only asked, "How do we know when irrational exuberance has unduly escalated asset values, which then become subject to unexpected and prolonged contractions?" But in asking that question, he served notice that a rising market can endanger the economy, and the Fed's efforts to regulate it.

Stock prices promptly plunged, here and abroad, in response to Mr. Greenspan's remark. While the Dow Jones industrial average has fluctuated sharply since Dec. 5, stock prices have certainly not resumed the upward march that had made millions of investors so happy for so many months. Clearly, Mr. Greenspan reminded people that stocks can go down as well as up. "It was a question that went to the framework within which one should look at investing," Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said last week.

Mr. Greenspan's rhetorical reference to the stock market was rare for a Federal Reserve chairman. The last one came from William McChesney Martin in 1965. He compared the prosperity of the mid-1960's with that of the 1920's. He made no mention of the 1929 crash, but the immediate response to Mr. Martin's comment was a sharp drop in stock prices. His timing was good. While the Dow Jones average



Stephen Crowley/The New York Times
Alan Greenspan.

soon recovered and rose to a new high, by mid-1966 the bull market was over and speculation ceased to be a danger.

That is not yet the case for Mr. Greenspan. The rising stock prices that seemed such strong evidence of a healthy corporate sector and a strong economy might instead be evidence that stock trading has entered into the realm of speculation.

With such a market as backdrop, the Fed becomes hamstrung as the nation's chief regulator of economic growth, and its actions can misfire. When the Fed's policy makers decide that economic growth is too strong, and potentially inflationary, they raise interest rates to discourage the borrowing that oils the economy. But shareholders frequently respond to higher interest rates by shifting out of stocks into Treasury bills and similar securities that pay interest. If that shift takes place during a period of speculation on the stock market, the plunge in stock prices might be sharp,

inflicting its own damage on consumer confidence.

"If there is a sell-off," said Henry Kaufman, an economist, "then Mr. Greenspan is on record as having warned that this could be a problem."

On the other hand, the economy could weaken in the eyes of Fed policy makers, in which case their standard response is to lower interest rates to encourage borrowing and spending. But the response on Wall Street to lower rates is to buy stocks, which in a speculative market might result in too much buying.

"If Alan Greenspan were to decide that he needs to raise interest rates, he could end up pricking the stock market bubble and causing a crash," said David Jones, chief economist of Aubrey G. Lanston, a Wall Street firm. "And if he were to lower rates, that could encourage even more speculation. I think his whole sense of timing is forward looking. He is worried that speculation might limit his policy options in the future."

Right now, Mr. Greenspan and his colleagues — the governors and presidents of the Fed's regional banks — seem willing to leave interest rates alone. In the view of most Fed watchers, they will decide at their next meeting, on Tuesday, that the economy is neither too strong nor too weak. But that cannot last, and Mr. Greenspan, bracing for the future, has already served notice that rising stock prices are no longer good news.

The Nation
A Fading
Against D

Bar

مكتبات العامة

The Nation

A Fading Drumbeat Against Drunken Driving

By MATTHEW L. WALD

WASHINGTON The people who lead the national campaign against drunken driving say that something frustrating and sad has happened to their 15-year campaign: it has gotten old. The crusade helped cut the number of alcohol-related deaths by 40 percent, but the sermon seems to be wearing off, and the number of deaths is rising again.

There were 17,274 deaths on the roads last year related to alcohol, up from 16,580 in 1994, the first increase in the 1990's and by far the steepest increase since drunken driving became a national issue in the

Public attention flags, and alcohol-related traffic deaths start to rise.

early 1980's. There are other, less tangible signs, too. "It's harder and harder for us to get major media coverage," said Katherine Prescott, national president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. She said grant money, once easy to get, has gone in the last few years to a succession of other worthy causes: rape victims, then child abuse victims and, most recently, victims of domestic violence. Membership in her group is steady, she said, with each crash death bringing new recruits, but fund-raising is off.

More subtly, the subject has slipped off the center of the conversational map. "The important thing is, are everyday people talking about it?" said Sandra J. Ball-Rokeach, a professor of communications and sociology at the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Southern California. And right now, she continued, "it's not really at the center of interpersonal discourse."

Eternal vigilance, it seems, is the price of sobriety. And vigilance is not a strong point in the American

character, or Jefferson wouldn't have made his observation about vigilance in the first place. With drinking and driving, as with drugs and smoking, public health responds to a certain level of public hectoring, and then tends to suffer relapses when it stops. A long campaign, waged with news stories about individual tragedies, by broadcast and print public service ads, and even by writing designated drivers into the scripts of television shows, resulted not just in stricter laws and law enforcement but in changed public norms.

Joking Around

"I can remember when it was just fine to leave a party half-smashed; that's not the case now," said Ms. Ball-Rokeach. But even some of that has slipped away: Ms. Ball-Rokeach said she recently heard someone at a party, drink in hand, making a joke that probably wouldn't have been considered funny five years ago: the guest wanted to be a "designated drinker." But in the current climate, the joke is acceptable, she said.

The cause-and-effect relationship here is murky. Are there more deaths, and more complacency, because the assignment editors and the people who choose public service ads now are less interested? Or is the loss of enthusiasm in the media a sign of society's having moved on, and thus an effect rather than a cause?

Dr. C. Everett Koop, who was President Ronald Reagan's surgeon general, said that the loss of public attention is the root of bad behavior, and that no one is focusing public attention now.

"If there is not an authoritative voice that continues to hammer away at a single problem, it tends to be missed," he said. Dr. Koop hammered away at tobacco, and the smoking rate was at 26 percent when he left office in 1989, he said, as against 30 percent now. In between were surgeons general who did not make a public assault on tobacco their cause, he said.

Jay A. Winsten, director of the Center for Health Communication at the Harvard School of Public Health, sees "a direct relationship between media coverage and drunk driving fatalities."

"There were two periods of unusually high media attention to drunk driving: the first was in 1983 and 1984, and it was largely the work of groups like MADD," he said. "The second was in 1989, '90, '91 and '92, with a hefty representation of the designated driver.



At a vigil last week at the courthouse in Hackensack, N.J., a 30-foot scroll listed drunken driving victims.

"During each high-media period, alcohol-related traffic fatalities, corrected for vehicle miles driven, fell twice as rapidly as during the intervening low-media periods."

The death rate per 100 million miles traveled — a standard measure of traffic — fell rapidly in the early 1980's, from 1.58 in 1982 to 1.28 in 1985. After a slight increase, the rate resumed a firm downward path after safety advocates popularized the designated driver, in 1988, from 1.17 that year to 0.70 in 1994. Last year, it rose to 0.72.

The rate continued to fall even after Congress allowed the speed limit to rise to 65 miles an hour on rural interstates in 1987. The lifting of all Federal speed limits last year would not yet be reflected in the accident statistics, experts say.

Too Successful

A major engine of the public attention has been public service announcements. At the Advertising Council, which produces many of them, Ruth A. Wooden, the president, said that, in part, the campaign worked its way out of a job. "It's not at the top of the agenda now," she said of drunken driving, "but in a way that's related to its success; it's a problem solved, in a way, and let's go on to something else."

Except that it isn't really solved.

"If anybody would have told me 15 years ago that this many people, 17,000 people, would still be dying on the road, I would not have believed it," said Ms. Prescott of MADD, who said the driver who killed her son had had two convictions for drunken driving before that crash and two after. Now, she said, the problem may be down to a hard core of alcoholics who do not respond to public appeals.

But the mood in society does matter, other experts say. It affects the number of sobriety checkpoints the police erect, the odds that a judge or jury will send someone to jail or into a mandatory treatment program, and the likelihood that a bartender or host or fellow partygoer will take away someone's keys. None of these is easy to measure with statistics.

One more quantifiable trend is the passage of new laws; in the most recent legislative session, 11 states considered proposals to change the blood alcohol level that defines drunken driving from .10 to .08 percent; none approved the change.

There is no end to the campaign, said Dr. Winsten, like those against drugs and violence. "These problems are never going to go away," he said. "They need to be managed over time. When we turn our attention away from them, they're going to pop up."

Selling America on Superstores

Bargains, Yes. But Not in Our Backyards.

By KIRK JOHNSON

HERE was something touching and sweetly small-townish about the stand taken by the New York City Council against the influx of more superstores in the nation's largest city. The Council's rejection of Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani's re-zoning plan last week reinforced what the Kmart and Home Depots have recently discovered: New Yorkers aren't some weird breed apart. They are like everyone else.

New Yorkers are just as susceptible to buying in bulk as suburbanites. They are more than ready to load up on gallons of olive oil, five-pound jars of gourmet popcorn, half-priced toilet seats and children's clothing at one stop. And like people everywhere, they worry about what goes in their backyard. Just as wary and reluctant are the many, regular-size stores that sell the very same goods.

Megastores have met local opposition before. Sometimes they have even retreated in the face of public relations assaults about disappearing downtowns and endangered businesses that can find no place in the Mixmaster of national chain merchandising. The threat of a new Walmart can rouse small towns to fight back, sometimes successfully.

The big stores, however, usually move in, and capitalism wins out in the end. Americans always buy more than what they planned to get, even if the result isn't really to their liking. In effect shoppers can have it



The first Kmart in New York City opened this year in Manhattan near Macy's.

both ways: They can be nostalgic about the good old days of small, neighborhood mom-and-pops (the worn wooden floors and the dusty, penny-candied shelves) even as they do them in by loading up on all the bulk-pack toilet paper and mass quantities of cocktail weenies that mom-and-pops never sold, because customers never thought to ask for them.

In New York City, the love it-hate it megastore paradox is even more pronounced, because to much of the world, New York City means shopping. For all the talk about mall envy driving New Yorkers to shop in the suburbs, many of the new super-sized retailers in New York City, like the Bed Bath & Beyond that anchors a revitalized lower Sixth Avenue strip with a Barnes

& Noble, say it's the other way around. A sizable part of their customer base depends not on New Yorkers but on the tourists and suburbanites who flock to the city to shop — as they always have.

In a very real way New York City, a manufacturing hub in the industrial revolution, invented super-scale shopping. Nineteenth-century mercantile palaces like A. T. Stewart's dry goods store helped usher in consumerism after the Civil War. In this century, R. H. Macy defined big and then marched out on a national road show, taking the city's retailing imprint to the mall.

The city also pioneered the concept of zoning laws. New York City zoning sounds fiercely specific about what shall be and what shall not be allowed. It is a reflection of the ever prickly local culture: the fiefs, politics and beleaguered citizenry. The city, however, needs the revenues, taxes and jobs that the superstores bring in. Mr. Giuliani argued, since it lost its famed manufacturing base and jobs traveled not only to New Jersey but to South Dakota and Florida.

For the most part, however, the suburban superstores have avoided New York City not because of the zoning laws but because of business basics like high electricity and real estate costs, taxes, rents and what is known in the trade as high shrinkage, which is a polite way of saying that the city is seen to have more than its share of shoplifters, larcenous staff and organized crime lords. The big stores also stayed out of New York City because they could make more money in the suburbs. Now suburbia is saturated with stores and New York City looks com-

Megastores give people more of what they think they need.

paratively inviting, despite the costs, zoning and hassles. They have been using loopholes to get around zoning difficulties. Home Depot, for example, gained its foothold in the outer boroughs as a hardware store.

While Home Depot, Walmart and others were multiplying in the suburbs, they were also changing the face of retailing. The new breed of stores offers the shopper more to love and to fear. Today, computers help shape store inventories to local markets: instant databases show what products move, how to display them, when and at what price. It's like a mom-and-pop pumped up on steroids — big stores make it their business to know the customers, quirks and all.

If the New York City megastore debate is really about economic self-determination — giving residents a say in what their neighborhoods should be — Council members might do well to recall how ineffective the current zoning pattern was as a vehicle for making the city a certain kind of place. It was enacted in the 1960's and 1970's based on the brash declaration that New York City was, and always should be, a manufacturing town.

Is This What Women Want?

Continued From Page 1

and business and men taking more time off from their jobs to share more of the workload at home. But men still dominate the top slots in the executive suites and in government. And working women still do 87 percent of the shopping, 81 percent of the cooking, 78 percent of the cleaning and 63 percent of the bill-paying, according to a 1993 study by the Family and Work Institute. And that's a burden that single mothers, whose ranks are growing, can only dream of.

The disparity between women's political, economic and demographic clout and their limited status raises beguiling questions about the definition of power. Which is the better yardstick to measure women's achievement: increased representation in positions of power or increased influence on the decisions of powerful people? Should feminism be considered a success if it has not managed to get as many women to the top as men, but has won more flex time, longer shopping hours, more concern for safety, more interest in education?

"In some ways it's the best of the feminist movement in keeping our eyes on the prize in terms of what I would call these quality-of-life issues, so that the issue is not just simply becoming the C.E.O., but how do we reframe the workplace so that it's better for all of us?" said Dr. Paula Rayman, executive director of the Radcliffe Public Policy Institute. "That to me is the feminist issue, not just how we can do it better than the guys in their own terms."

But other feminists suggest that political and business elites have simply figured out more creative ways to sell goods, services and candidates to women

without fundamentally improving their lot. As women enter the labor force, do most of the housework, and remain the prime targets of advertisements, the female stereotype is changing from barefoot and pregnant to debt-ridden and tired.

'All Feminism Got Us Is More Work'

"That may be feeding some of the backlash against feminism among some women," said Heidi I. Hartman, executive director of the Institute for Women's Policy Studies, a Washington research group that just released a state-by-state report on American women. "People are saying that all feminism ever got us is more work."

There is little question, though, that the country has felt some big shifts over the last two and a half decades. Since 1970, women have grown to about half the country's labor force, and are less inclined to stop working when they have children. More female high school graduates, 63 percent, enter college, compared to 61 percent of male graduates. The number of women-owned businesses has increased by 43 percent from 1987 to 1992.

In addition to dramatic increases in the number of married women who work, there have been huge jumps in the number of women who live alone and in families headed by single mothers. All these trends mean that women are increasingly making political and economic decisions independently of men, rather than merely bending to the directives of husbands and fathers.

Because women are making more of the decisions, the producers of big-ticket goods and services are increasingly trying to appeal to them. Women, for example, now buy about half the new cars and about 25 percent of

light trucks, including sport utility vehicles and minivans, according to J. D. Power and Associates. So, auto-makers are changing how they design and market cars, emphasizing safety and convenience, which women care more about, and playing down speed and power. In the 1970's when auto-makers, prodded by the Federal Government, tried to introduce air bags, the mainly male car-buying public rebelled. Today, air bags are a standard feature on all new cars and are promoted heavily in ads.

In the area of health — an industry that represents about one-seventh of the American economy — 75 percent of the purchasing decisions for families are made, by women or are significantly influenced by them. As a consequence, some large health providers like Kaiser Permanente have developed new programs to train and retrain their doctors in the art of communications, an area in which women feel physicians are lacking.

Women are changing television, too. They are now the target audience not only for daytime television but for prime-time television. "The primary, No. 1 audience segment in television is adult women under the 55 years of age," said David Poltrac, executive vice president of planning and research at CBS. And that is why there are so many shows tailored to them.

Women are even influencing sports programming, an area traditionally dominated by men. In its coverage of the Olympics in Atlanta, NBC unabashedly wooed women, reducing its coverage of boxing and larding the events with profiles and human interest stories. While some sports fans derided the coverage as the "soap opera Olympics," NBC's ratings were boosted by about 25 percent over the 1992 and 1988 games, and it was largely due to women. Other networks took note. CBS,

which lost a lot of its sports programming, is carrying professional figure skating competitions, and next year it will add professional women's basketball, professional gymnastics and world cup skiing, all popular with women.

"I don't want to exaggerate things," said Rob Correa, vice president of sports programming on CBS. "But a lot more girls are playing sports than there were 15 years ago. It's incredible. They may be tomorrow's weekend viewers."

The Big House

But whether it is women's consumption of television, cars or health care, the question remains the same. Is consumer power real power? Perhaps the one consumer item that best illustrates this conundrum is the American house. Officials in the home-building industry say that the average size of a home has grown from 1,500 square feet in the early 1970's to more than 2,100 square feet today, even though the average family size has decreased. Most of that increase is the result of larger kitchens, bathrooms and family rooms, features the building industry has found that women, more than men, are demanding.

"When people buy the home they say 80 percent of the decisions are joint ones," said Gopal Ahluwalia, director of research for the National Home Builders Association. "But you can't sell a home unless it has a really good quality kitchen with upgraded appliances and plenty of space. So we think it is the female who has the more power."

But it is also possible that houses are getting bigger to make women forget that they are still trapped in them.

The World

A Country Burgers Can't Save

By STEVEN ERLANGER

WASHINGTON
F McDonald's restaurants are a harbinger of Western institutions and democracy. Belarus has a lot of Big Macs yet to swallow.

The country's first McDonald's opened last week, in Minsk, the capital. But this watershed event produced a riot among 4,000 people who thought they'd get free fries.

Then the police, as befits the constitutional dictatorship that Belarus has now become, waded away with their clubs.

In time, McDonald's may help to produce a peace-loving democracy in Belarus, but for now its experience only serves to point up the incoherent, even bizarre, politics of the lands that lie just beyond the Central European countries that NATO is trying to absorb. It tells a lot about why countries like Poland and the Czech Republic are so eager to join NATO, but also points up some of the dangers if they do.

Over the last few weeks, President Aleksandr Lukashenko has effectively seized power in Belarus, and aside from the magic of McDonald's, the United States doesn't have many effective levers with which to encourage him to back down.

A Dictator Rises

The unpredictable Mr. Lukashenko has carried out a rolling coup: manipulating a referendum to extend his term and powers; shutting down the parliament and recreating one limited to his supporters; pushing the resignation of members of the constitutional court and the chief prosecutor, and blocking the distribution of independent newspapers.

"Lukashenko has taken over the Government through nondemocratic means," a senior American official said. "This is now a constitutional dictatorship in the heart of the

new Europe, right on the borders of where NATO is going to expand, and there's not a lot we can do about it."

Belarus, while a tragedy, is not yet a crisis. But it is, writ small, an example of worrisome trends throughout the former Soviet Union, where presidential manipulation or distortion of short-lived democratic institutions are something of a norm.

In Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and even Armenia, there have been egregious examples of electoral manipulation or an overstepping of presidential powers in the name of efficiency and economic reform.

At the same time, Russia itself has grown more haughty toward its former colonies, with demands, backed up through pressure on energy supplies, for better economic, trade and military ties.

No one has loudly objected when Russia has turned imperiously toward the east and Central Asia. But the west — Ukraine, Belarus, the Baltic nations — is quite a different matter. These are the "borderlands" between Europe and Asia, between the powers of the East and West, and this makes them a source of nervousness for everyone. Mr. Lukashenko himself, a populist former collective farm boss, is considered highly unreliable.

Paul A. Gobie, a former intelligence analyst and now assistant director of Radio Free Europe, says that when NATO moves eastward to take in Poland, the Russians may say in response, "We have to project power," and Moscow is likely to do that through Belarus.

A senior American official agreed, then asked: "And where does that put Ukraine? That's why Belarus is important."

Mr. Lukashenko, who is thought to have political ambitions in Russia, has called for the reunification of Minsk with Moscow, and has offered to station nuclear weapons in Belarus to counter any NATO deployments in new member countries — an option that NATO, for now, says is unnecessary.

Ukraine, on the other hand, would only fear a greater Russian presence and pressure to its north.

The United States and its allies have condemned events in Belarus and the American Ambassador, Kenneth Yalowitz, has been called back to help think through what to do about the country, in talks scheduled for Friday.

A Lack of Clout

But Washington has little to work with to overturn the swing to dictatorship. The United States is providing about \$225 million in aid to Ukraine, about \$100 million to Russia and \$95 million to Armenia, but Belarus gets only about \$5 million, nearly all of it going to nongovernmental institutions that are still trying to "build democracy" in a place where it is being snuffed out. And cutting off that aid would not cause Mr. Lukashenko any pain.

Washington has also offered and committed \$118 million over the last four years to pay for the removal of Belarus's nuclear warheads and missiles (now accomplished to great sighs of relief) and the destruction of launching pads, silos, garages and so on (crucial jobs still left to do).

But yearly certification, based in part on progress in human rights and democracy, is required for this money to be spent, and President Clinton can't waive this requirement, even on national-security grounds. Ironically, then, the Administration may be forced to withhold the money it wants to spend in Belarus without any prospect that withholding it will produce any change for the better.

To further the dilemma, the one actor with leverage on Belarus is Russia. But therein lies a Catch-22. "We want to keep Russia engaged, but we don't want to reinforce the sense that Belarus belongs to the Russian sphere of influence," an official said ruefully. "That could be very counterproductive."



The opening of Belarus's first McDonald's drew thousands — and, later, a riot.

Broadcast News

In Spanish, It's Another Story

Continued From Page 1

Latinos in the United States, their liaison to their neighborhood and their country."

The Spanish-language networks have a very different sense of what is news. Early this year, for instance, all three English-language networks add CNN briefly broadcast footage from a Patrick J. Buchanan campaign rally in Arizona in which a young Hispanic voter challenged the Republican candidate's opposition to immigration and free trade. Univision, however, followed up on the initial controversy by tracking down the youth, 18-year-old Marciano Murillo, to his high school in Gila Bend.

There they quickly discovered he was the son of an "undocumented worker" from Mexico (the Spanish-language networks never use the term "illegal immigrant" unless they are quoting someone). The American-born teen-ager, who has worked in the fields with his parents since he was 9 years old, told the network, "I'm always going to defend my people."

Similarly, during the 1993 flap about child care that followed President Clinton's aborted nomination of Zoë Baird as Attorney General, it was the Spanish-language networks that made a point of seeking out Hispanic women who work as nannies and housekeepers and listening to their tales of abuse and exploitation. English-language coverage, by contrast, focused on the plight of the middle-class professional couples who typically employed those women.

The differences go beyond editorial content. While CBS's much-ballyhooed experiment with Dan Rather and Connie Chung as joint anchors failed, both Spanish-language networks, representatives of a culture supposedly mired in machismo, have paired male and female anchors for nearly a decade with no apparent problems.

"There are many stereotypes and prejudices and biases that we have been breaking down without anyone noticing," Mr. Ramos said.

What the Ads Say

Even commercials can be instructive in that regard, particularly those that demolish the myth that newly-arrived Hispanic immigrants do not want to learn English.

One of the largest types of advertisements on any Spanish-language television station, in fact, are the multitude of schools and home-study programs that teach English. These ads stress that the key to advancement in the United States is a command of the nation's dominant language.

In one typical ad, a husband sorrowfully informs his wife he has been passed over for a better job because his English just isn't good enough. But six months later, after taking the

Inglés sin Barreras (English Without Barriers) course, he is able to tell his family over dinner that he has won that coveted promotion to manager because he is now fully bilingual. "Gimme five," one of his children says to him, in English. "Way to go, Dad," another proudly proclaims.

Seen in Latin America

Increasingly, Univision and Telemundo are also helping form the image that the rest of the Western Hemisphere has of life in the United States. One or the other is available on virtually every cable system in Latin America. And in smaller, poorer countries, local television stations often simply tape stories from Univision or Telemundo's nightly newscasts for their own use, which gives these American networks a degree of credibility and visibility unusual in the region.

"With Univision and Telemundo, I know that what I am seeing has not been subject to any form of censorship by the government or political

CBS talks to yuppie couples. Univisión interviews their Hispanic nannies.

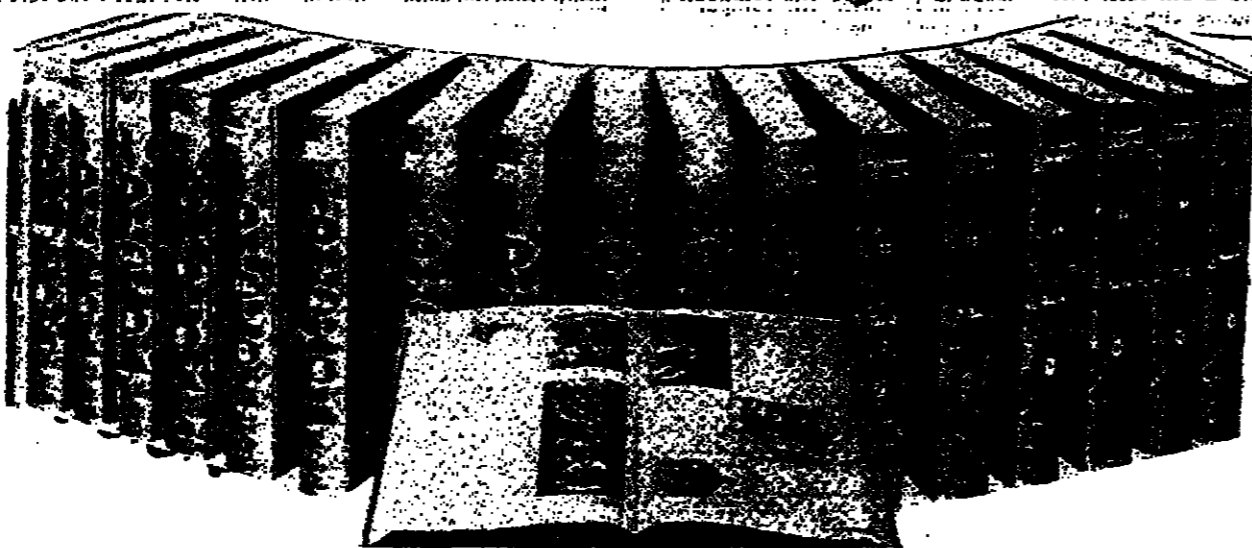
parties, and isn't slanted to favor the interests of some local bigwig." Rafael Salazar Navarrete, an engineer who lives in Nicaragua, said recently. "I certainly can't say that about my local stations or those submissive Mexican channels that are also on my cable system."

Within the United States, that approach appears to have broad appeal both to recently arrived immigrants and more acculturated Hispanic-Americans.

When the Univision affiliate here, WLTV, surged past the CBS, NBC and Fox stations in news ratings, those astonished affiliates were quick to attribute the results to sampling error, apparently unable to imagine that Spanish-speaking viewers, who comprise a majority here, just might prefer substance to the usual English-language formula of happy talk and mayhem, and the routine mispronunciation of Hispanic names.

"Though not perfect, Univision and Telemundo provide a Latino perspective that no one else will," said Federico Subervi, an expert on Spanish-language media who teaches at the University of Texas. "Along with the Spanish language itself, they are the glue of Latino identity across the country."

SPECIAL PRICE FOR JERUSALEM POST READERS ENCYCLOPAEDIA JUDAICA



Encompassing every branch of Jewish knowledge: the Bible, Jewish history, practice, thought, literature and mysticism, as well as the role played by Jews in world culture.

Encyclopaedia Judaica is a must for every home and library, placing the entire gamut of Jewish heritage within arm's reach.

Here's what you get:

- The 16-volume ENCYCLOPAEDIA JUDAICA, containing 25,000 entries by 2,200 contributors, 12,000,000 words and 9,000 illustrations.
- PLUS the Decennial Year Book 1973-1982.
- PLUS the Decennial Year Book 1983-1992.

SPECIAL PRICE FOR JERUSALEM POST READERS:
THE 16-VOLUME SET, THE DECENNIAL YEAR BOOK 1973-1982,
and THE DECENNIAL YEAR BOOK 1983-1992,
ALL FOR ONLY NIS 2,590 (Recommended price NIS 2,690)
or in 5 credit card payments of NIS 537.

To BOOKS: The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000

Please send me ENCYCLOPAEDIA JUDAICA as indicated.
I enclose payment to The Jerusalem Post, by check or credit card details.

18 Volume set for NIS 2,590*

- Check enclosed
- 5 credit card payments of NIS 537
 - Isracard
 - Visa
 - AmEx
 - Diners

No. _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Code _____

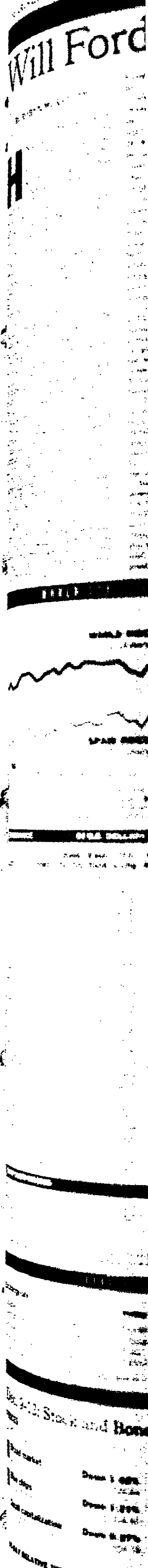
Tel. (day) _____

ID No. _____

ORDER BY PHONE OR FAX
02-6241282
Fax: 02-6241212
e-mail: orders@jpost.co.il

All prices include delivery in Israel.
* For overseas mail surface delivery, please add NIS 120/ set
Prices as of December 1, 1996.

encyc.jud 11/96a



ECONOMY

Will Ford Motor Co. Become the New Repo Man?

By ROBYN MEREDITH

DEARBORN, Mich. HENRY FORD famously insisted that buyers could have any color of car they wanted, as long as it was black. But he was just as reluctant to offer them credit. Only in 1923, two decades after he began selling cars, did he begin to experiment, cautiously, with financing.

Ford customers could buy a 1925 Model T on layaway, paying \$5 a week for a year. Only then were they allowed to drive the shiny black car home. (Not until four years later did Mr. Ford give in to demands for more colors.)

Ford long ago overcame its founder's misgivings about making loans. With Americans now financing four-fifths of all new cars, the Ford Motor Company has earned more as a banker than as a car builder in five of the last six years. Its banking businesses had higher profits last year than all but two of the nation's commercial banks.

And while Ford's automotive divisions are struggling to hold up against stiff competition worldwide, a subsidiary, the Ford Motor Credit Company, has become the biggest auto financing company in the world. In the third quarter, Ford Credit earned \$299 million, compared with a paltry \$15 million for the company's worldwide automotive operations.

Now Ford Credit has an ambitious plan to extend its lending reach into an area that would have baffled Henry Ford: borrowers with proven records of not paying back their loans on time, a group collectively

known as the subprime lending market.

The lure is the \$100 billion that people with flawed credit ratings borrow each year to buy new and used cars, and the interest rates of 18 percent and higher that Ford will be able to charge on loans to its share of that market. That is the equivalent of paying for a car at credit-card rates.

Ford Credit's new business is risky on two counts. First, whether a company makes money depends on which loan applicants it decides to trust, and how far it trusts them before sending out the repo man to seize the collateral. Secondly, Ford's image could be damaged if the company is seen as profiting at the expense of the poor.

Consumer advocates already say a Ford consumer lending unit, the Associates, charges unfairly steep interest rates and fees. That unit's target market is similar to that of the new subprime auto-finance operation, named Fairlane Credit after Henry Ford's gracious Fair Lane estate here.

"Ford Motor Credit doesn't want to be seen charging 40 percent interest rates or repossessing cars," said Jordan Hymowitz, an auto services analyst at Montgomery Securities in San Francisco. "It is a potential public relations problem if the rates get too egregious."

But at a time when profits are down and default rates are up at Ford Credit, the cornerstone of Ford's financial businesses, its executives say they have studied the companies in the subprime lending market, are proceeding cautiously and are confident they can make good money.

Ford is also planning to move slowly to build its new business. "We aren't going to make any big, bad boo-boos" with Fairlane, William E. Odom, the chairman of Ford Credit, said.

But he said he expected Fairlane's returns to be more volatile than its parent's. Fairlane must be tough enough to compete with the dozens of scrappy, small companies that dominate subprime auto lending. But Fairlane will be walking a tightrope, particularly on the repossessions that come after people stop making car payments.

"If we pull the trigger too quickly on a repo, the customer is going to be upset with us and with the Ford Motor Company," Jerry Heimlicher, president of Fairlane, said.

Mr. Heimlicher said that Fairlane had not decided what interest rates it would charge, but that he expected them to be in a range of 18 to 22 percent, and perhaps higher. While other subprime lenders charge rates of 18 to 40 percent, where state laws permit, Mr. Heimlicher said Fairlane's rates "will never get into the range of 40 percent."

He added, "We are going to charge the fairest rates that we can charge, and still make a fair rate of profit."

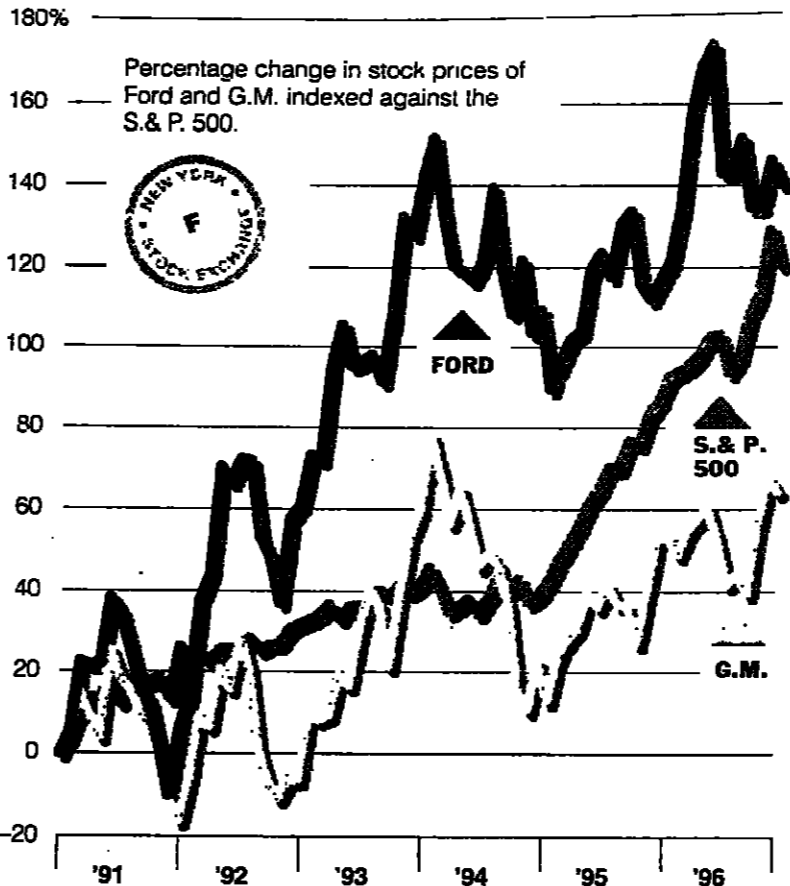
Fairlane is planning to hold the line on rates because it hopes to build loyalty to Ford vehicles. One reason Ford Credit chose the name Fairlane is that executives want customers to think of it as "fair."

Mr. Odom said consumer groups should not fear that Fairlane will treat poor customers unfairly. "It is not inconsistent to go into the non-prime business and run the business on the high road," he said.

When deciding whether to approve loan applications, lenders look at two factors: borrowers' income, and their record of repaying other loans. They often charge higher interest rates to people they consider less likely to pay them back.

An Auto Maker and a Banker

The giant auto maker is the world's second-biggest industrial company. But financial services represent a big share of its profits.

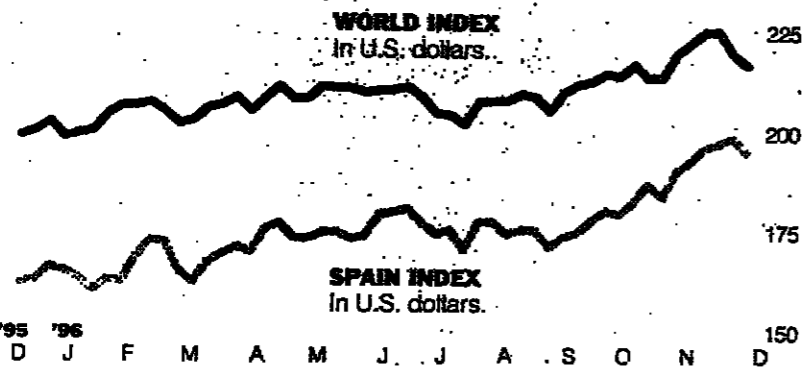


FINANCIAL INDICATORS	
Friday's close	\$32.00
52-week low; high	\$37.25; \$27.25
Market capitalization	\$35.8 billion
Estimated 1996 earnings, analysts' consensus	\$3.48 a share
Debt-to-asset ratio	60%
Ford vs. G.M.	
Price to estimated 1996 earnings	9.5 9.7
Price to book	1.5 2.0
Dividend yield	4.8% 2.8%

NET INCOME	
(\$ billion)	
'93	1.5
'94	1.5
'95	3.0
'96	4.0

*Includes \$440 million loss related to sale of thrift

WORLD STOCK MARKETS



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT Indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries

Country	PERFORMANCE IN U.S. DOLLARS				IN LOCAL CURR.			
	Index	Week % Chg.	Rank	YTD % Chg.	Index	Week % Chg.	YTD % Chg.	Dividend Yield
Australia	211.11	-0.4	8	11.1	18	4.31	176.89	4.1
Austria	185.37	0.8	2	6.2	20	1.92	148.97	14.8
Belgium	221.31	-1.7	20	5.8	21	3.84	173.83	14.5
Brazil	180.03	-2.6	25	30.5	1	1.78	344.24	39.5
Britain	264.87	1.3	1	14.9	13	4.01	236.83	7.6
Canada	183.76	-1.7	19	23.8	5	2.00	181.10	23.5
Denmark	334.25	-0.1	5	15.7	11	1.71	268.92	23.6
Finland	234.95	-3.6	26	25.6	3	2.20	228.00	33.7
France	204.12	-1.5	16	13.8	15	2.92	167.19	21.5
Germany	183.73	-0.2	6	12.2	16	1.64	147.73	21.3
Hong Kong	496.44	-2.4	24	25.5	4	3.22	483.35	25.6
Indonesia	222.65	-1.9	21		27	1.61	321.39	
Ireland	310.29	0.0	3	21.4	6	3.48	263.29	17.2
Italy	79.11	-2.2	23	7.3	19	2.30	90.24	3.3
Japan	133.80	-2.0	22	-13.6	24	0.80	96.26	-4.7
Malaysia	581.94	-0.3	7	20.0	9	1.10	565.57	19.2
Mexico	1,153.32	-3.7	27	11.3	17	1.10	9,992.01	14.5
Netherlands	313.78	-1.6	17	15.1	12	2.97	248.51	24.5
New Zealand	91.25	-0.7	12	14.6	14	3.99	68.03	6.7
Norway	279.39	-0.6	9	20.8	7	2.06	245.61	23.8
Philippines	200.54	-0.6	10		28	0.63	262.79	
Singapore	409.00	-0.7	13	0.4	23	1.02	263.74	-0.6
South Africa	306.12	-3.9	28	-20.6	25	2.48	316.71	3.2
Spain	198.92	-1.4	14	20.4	8	3.06	196.11	29.2
Sweden	404.19	-1.6	18	29.5	2	2.09	407.45	33.1
Switzerland	237.38	-0.7	11	0.6	22	1.53	193.65	15.0
Thailand	107.28	-0.0	4	-36.2	26	3.22	108.45	-35.3
United States	296.59	-1.4	15	18.0	10	2.02	296.59	18.0

COMPOSITE INDICES						
Europe	227.46	-0.3	13.2	2.95	196.33	15.6
Pacific Basin	151.45	-1.8	-8.3	1.28	108.97	-1.3
Europe/Pacific	183.02	-1.0	1.7	2.15	142.54	6.7
World	219.97	-1.3	8.7	2.09	190.42	11.9

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1996 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's

CURRENCIES

Exchange rate	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	113.95	112.89	+0.93	102.04
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.5588	1.5463	+0.61	1.4430
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.3627	1.3600	+0.19	1.3722
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.6554	1.6466	+0.53	1.5373

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets. Exchange rates as of Friday's New York close

UPS AND DOWNS

Dec. 9-13: Stock and Bond Markets Continue to Slide as Investors Have Year-End Worries

Sources: Bank Rate Monitor, Bloomberg Financial Markets, The Bond Buyer, DataStream, Goldman, Sachs, IBC's Money Fund Report, Merrill Lynch, Standard & Poor's, Ryan Labs

PRICES

DOMESTIC EQUITIES

Broad market	Down 1.48%
S & P 500 index	728.64
Blue chips	Down 1.21%
Dow 30 industrials	6,304.87
Small capitalization	Down 0.37%
Russell 2000 index	354.19

DOMESTIC BONDS

Treasuries	Down 0.22%
Ryan Labs. Total Return	195.23
Municipals	Down 0.27%
Bond Buyer index	117.13
Corporates	Down 0.19%
Merrill Lynch Master Index	848.78

AROUND THE WORLD

European stocks	Down 0.27%
F.T.-Actuaries Europe	227.46
Asian stocks	Down 1.82%
F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin	151.45
Gold	Down 0.14%
New York cash price	\$368.60

Foreign indices are given in dollar terms.

YIELDS

BONDS

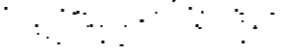
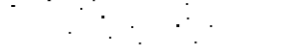
Long bonds	6.57%
30-year Treasuries	Up 6 basis pts.
Notes	5.73%
2-year Treasuries	Up 4 basis pts.
Municipals	5.73%
Bond Buyer index	Up 1 basis pt.

100 basis points = 1 percentage point

OTHER INVESTMENTS

Money market funds	4.82%
Taxable average	Down 6 basis pts.
Bank C.D.'s	5.03%
1-year small savers	Unchanged
Stocks	2.05%
S & P 500 dividend yield	Up 4 b.p.

Change in basis points.



The New York Times

Arthur Ochs Sulzberger Jr., Publisher
Joseph Lelyveld, Executive Editor
Gene Roberts, Managing Editor
Assistant Managing Editors
Soma Golden Beyer, Carolyn Lee
Gerald M. Boyd, Jack Rosenthal
David R. Jones, Allan M. Siegal

Howell Raines, Editorial Page Editor
Philip M. HOFFEY, Deputy Editorial Page Editor
Janet L. Robinson, President, General Manager
William I. Pollak, Executive VP, Circulation
Penelope Muse Abernathy, Senior VP, Planning and Human Resources
Daniel H. Cohen, Senior VP, Advertising
Richard H. Gilman, Senior VP, Operations
Raymond E. Douglas, VP, Systems and Technology
Donna C. Miele, VP, Human Resources
Charles S. Shelton, VP, Distribution
David A. Thurman, VP, Production

The TV Rating Wars

This year Congress warned the television industry to devise a voluntary rating system for shows, enabling parents to block them out, or risk having a system imposed from Washington. What started as a cooperative effort among the networks, parents' groups and others has collapsed into name-calling, however. The reason is that the ratings put forward by the industry are too vague to be of much help to television viewers. The industry needs to listen to the complaints and see if it can come up with something better.

a ratings system that is so explicit about content that it drives away advertisers and turns off viewers. Television viewers know that the networks love a little ambiguity in their promotion. But most viewers have become accustomed to labeling in what they buy and are demanding to know what they are getting when they decide to let their children watch television. To ignore that political reality is to invite the kind of overly restrictive legislation that Congress will be only too happy to deliver.

The ratings that have drawn fire were produced by an advisory group headed by Jack Valenti, president of the Motion Picture Association of America. Mr. Valenti helped oversee the largely successful voluntary ratings system for movie theaters, but this time he has produced a system that is too simple for the more complicated menu of television programming. Mr. Valenti proposes four ratings: TV-G (for general audiences), TV-PG (parental guidance suggested), TV-14 (parents strongly cautioned) and TV-M (mature audiences only). But viewers are right to demand more explicit information about the amounts of nudity, sex, violence and profanity each program contains.

The concept of the V-chip, or electronic device blocking out shows with certain codes, won broad endorsement in the Presidential campaign this year, and new television sets will be required to contain the device in 1998. When put into practice, it will not be without problems. The television networks are not wrong, for example, to worry about what might happen if the system gets too elaborate, and groups start demanding labels for controversial political subjects like abortion. But the industry can certainly be more accommodating — and politically smarter — than it was last week, with Mr. Valenti insisting that anything other than the system he has proposed would be challenged in court. Mr. Valenti has been around Washington long enough to know that such stubbornness is an invitation to would-be censors.

Many parents' groups have embraced the 10 categories adopted by Home Box Office, which describe adult content in more detail. Mr. Valenti argues, speciously, that with more complex ratings, countless permutations and combinations would arise, creating confusion for the viewer. He and his industry colleagues are exaggerating the hardship that would be imposed on networks by providing information beyond that contained in the four broad categories they have proposed.

There is ample time to discuss a system that preserves sophisticated programming for adults and enables parents to manage their children's viewing. The Telecommunications Act passed by Congress last February says that if the industry has not devised voluntary guidelines, the Federal Communications Commission is authorized to appoint its own commission to come up with one. As President Clinton said Friday, it is far more desirable for the industry to devise the ratings system than to have one be overseen by the Government.

The networks could easily devise a ratings system that is more descriptive than Mr. Valenti's and more streamlined than HBO's, and everyone knows it. What the television industry really fears is

A Victory for Wetlands

Over the last decade, the fight to save the nation's diminishing wetlands has focused on the bigger and more obvious threats. Former Vice President Dan Quayle and, later, Representative Bud Shuster of Pennsylvania advanced various schemes that would have transferred millions of these valuable acres to developers and industry almost overnight. Their efforts failed. But all the while, under 10-year-old regulations, the Army Corps of Engineers has been transferring land to private interests in small enough chunks to escape radar detection by most environmentalists and conservation-minded politicians. This has contributed mightily to the steady erosion of the wetland inventory, which is declining at a rate of some 70,000 acres a year.

simplify the corps' time-consuming permitting process, allows owners to bypass the usual review and obtain virtually instant approval for draining from 1 to 10 acres of wetlands.

Now, thanks to legal threats from environmentalists and complaints from the White House and other Federal agencies, the corps has agreed to institute new and stricter procedures. This is the best news for the country's wetlands since the Senate refused to consider Mr. Shuster's destructive efforts to rewrite the Clean Water Act and, in the process, narrow vital wetland protections.

Under the new rules, quick permitting under Permit 26 will apply only to parcels of three acres or less, beginning in January. After two years, the corps plans to scrap Permit 26 altogether and substitute new regulations. A faster timetable would be surely be preferable, but developers will feel the pinch of these new rules. Most of their money is made (and most of the environmental damage occurs) on parcels larger than three acres.

This is also a positive sign for the country's ecological health generally. The swamps, marshes and fens that make up the 100 million or so remaining acres of wetlands help filter pollutants, prevent floods, protect animal species and nourish tiny organisms essential to the food chain.

As a practical matter, the corps cannot exhaustively review every permit application. It therefore argues that it will still need some sort of system providing blanket approval to small projects. But the corps should not be left alone to devise the new system. Input is needed from the environmental community and agencies like the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Environmental Protection Agency. The aim here is to devise a system that combines maximum protection with rigorous enforcement.

The culprit here has been a regulation known as Nationwide Permit 26. Normally, anyone who intends to disturb a wetland must obtain a permit from the corps, which oversees dredging and filling activities in waterways. But Permit 26, designed to

For the moment, however, conservationists in and out of government can be pleased that the corps has begun to take their complaints seriously and that an incremental but insidious threat to what is left of the country's wetlands will soon begin to fade. Congress could conceivably overturn these new rules. But it would be unwise to try. Historically, the Corps of Engineers has not been famous for environmental stewardship. Its decision to change its ways is further evidence that those who believe in sound conservation practices have gained the upper hand in Washington.

The Ghost of Christmas Depression

Next weekend's televised showing of "It's a Wonderful Life" marks the movie's 50th anniversary, and a revival of the debate over what makes the film so well-loved. Like "A Christmas Carol," it is the story about having a bad (but instructive) holiday dream, courtesy of otherworldly spirits. Jimmy Stewart plays a suicidal George Bailey, who is shown what his hometown of Bedford Falls would be like if he had never been born. Needless to say, even though George is just the owner of an about-to-be-bankrupt savings and loan, his life turns out to have been critical to the happiness of hundreds of other people.

Watching George's progress in "It's a Wonderful Life" assures us that the spouse or parent who behaves like a depressive Grinch in the afternoon, criticizing the housekeeping and yelling at little Zuzu, will probably get over his seasonal doldrums by tree-trimming time. The dreaded visit from a super-successful sibling might turn out better than you think. Everyone knows you're the real family hero.

The movie's payoff comes when the entire town arrives to bail George out of his financial crisis, and his war-hero brother skips a Medal of Honor ceremony at the White House to rush home and announce that George is the real Bailey hero. Fans who have seen the movie 10 or 20 times usually cite this affirmation-of-life finale, the tribute to every person's unique importance.

Lesser movies carry their message of comfort, too. "Holiday Inn" teaches that there is no point worrying about things going wrong at your Christmas party, like lack of snow or bank foreclosure. Things will work out, the guests will come, and Bing Crosby will perform in several lavish production numbers. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" is perhaps a subtle commentary on what to do if the car doesn't start on Christmas Eve.

But good Christmas movies carry dual messages. On one level they speak to the eternal human spirit. On another they address the inevitable holiday anxiety attack. The many films made of "A Christmas Carol" are about the need to keep charity in our hearts year round. But they also hold out a promise that if you maintain a reasonably cheerful demeanor, you will still be invited out when you get old. (Charles Dickens, who was both sentimental and hard-headed, clearly felt that one key to being a beloved senior citizen at Christmastime was bringing a lot of presents.)

"It's a Wonderful Life," however, also has a unique appeal to our age. In the 1970's, the studio's copyright was accidentally allowed to lapse, and almost every television station in America used the movie as free holiday programming. It was shown so often that it became ingrained in the collective consciousness of several generations of television watchers. Millions of people know the references: signature song ("Buffalo Gals"), actress who played Mary Bailey (Donna Reed) and what happens when an angel wins his wings (a bell rings). The director, Frank Capra, would not want to know this, but "It's a Wonderful Life" has the same nostalgic pop-culture pull as "The Brady Bunch."

Do Computers Retard Productivity's Growth?

To the Editor:
Your Dec. 8 Week in Review article "What Has the Computer Done for Us Lately?" explores why personal computers haven't sparked an expected productivity boom. It neglects one obvious answer, however: the expectation is itself unrealistic.
The computer industry has conditioned us to very rapid technological change. That in itself may be one reason for slow productivity growth; business can't make much headway when it has to change products and procedures every few months. We should not forget, however, that individuals and organizations take to change much more slowly. It is only in the last five years or so that inexpensive personal computers have become powerful enough to really affect productivity.
That simply isn't a long enough time for businesses to figure out how to use those computers effectively, for software engineers to develop applications, or for workers to learn how to operate them. If really large enterprises like the I.R.S. and the air

traffic control system have been unable to implement this new technology, how can we expect small and medium-sized businesses to be up and running already?
To measure the impact of personal computers on productivity, you have to look at how and where they are used today. So far, a majority of businesses use them strictly for word processing. And, as anybody who has ever done any typing for a living can attest, the productivity gains in that field have been significant indeed.
SHELDON LEEMON
Huntington Wood, Mich., Dec. 9, 1996

Export Development

To the Editor:
Your Dec. 8 Week in Review article concerning computers' contribution to productivity missed the big picture.
Sure it is a waste when a \$2,000 computer is used primarily for E-mail and Solitaire. But what is truly productive about the computer is the contribution that it makes to the economy in the form of software, hardware and

Computer as Controller

To the Editor:
"What Has the Computer Done for Us Lately?" (Week in Review, Dec. 8) misses a couple of important points. First of all, the 1950's and 60's were the golden age of United States productivity mainly because the potential competition was still suffering the aftereffects of World War II. Germany and Japan were flattened and our allies debilitated; only we had the ability to take advantage of the knowledge explosion that followed the war.
Second, computers have had profound effects on productivity as machine controllers. For instance, the modern automobile has better performance, better safety and about twice the gas mileage of the cars of 30 years ago. This stems in part from the use of the computer in the design process and in part from its incorporation into vehicular systems as a controller. Imagine if all cars still got 12 miles per gallon and exposed us to the injury rates of 30 years ago; how much more would workers have to be paid for the same work if their transportation costs reflected this?

We Can Still Love Evita for Her Hipness

To the Editor:
Frank Rich is concerned (column, Dec. 11) that in awaiting the opening of Madonna's new movie, "Evita," and in purchasing the "Evita" line of clothing, people are embracing, or at least ignoring, Eva Peron's politics. I think he is overreacting a bit here.
After all, moviegoers have always appreciated the story of a woman working her way up from dire circumstances while stabbing the wealthy in the back (witness the enduring popularity of Scarlett O'Hara in "Gone With the Wind").
As for the traffic at the Evita boutique at Bloomingdale's, I suspect it has more to do with the fact that these styles look good on women who actually have hips, a sight so rare in modern fashion that many of us will be willing to go to Madonna's



Kim Robertson
movie, good or bad, as an act of gratitude.
BARBARA D. PAXTON
New York, Dec. 11, 1996

Serbian Student Movement Isn't Violent

To the Editor:
We are appalled by your Dec. 10 front-page article on the alleged nationalist character of the student protest in Belgrade, Serbia. As can easily be seen from the quotations of some protesters, there are varying political convictions among the students. On the other hand, in the three weeks of protest not a single extremist act has occurred.

As management aids, computers have been a disappointment, as your article reports. However, this has almost nothing to do with computers per se; it's just that if a computer lets you replace 10 clerks, and you're the one in charge of those clerks, and your status in the company rests on how many clerks you have, then suddenly you discover a need for more input. So much more, in fact, that 10 clerks pounding computers can barely handle it. The practical effect of computers-in-management has been to increase the workload for everyone at all levels below the level where the computers are installed.
JORN K. LUNDE
Orono, Me., Dec. 8, 1996

Furthermore, contrary to your implications, there were hardly any noteworthy expressions of anti-American or anti-Western attitudes among the students. Your reference to a racist orientation of the Belgrade students or domination of racist content in academic lectures is equally untrue.
The decision to refuse all journalists permission to enter the philosophy faculty building was not made by the students, but by the heads of the faculty. Moreover, the protest rallies have never opened with the old Serbian anthem "God Give Us Justice," but with the old academic anthem "Gaudeamus Ignitur."

As management aids, computers have been a disappointment, as your article reports. However, this has almost nothing to do with computers per se; it's just that if a computer lets you replace 10 clerks, and you're the one in charge of those clerks, and your status in the company rests on how many clerks you have, then suddenly you discover a need for more input. So much more, in fact, that 10 clerks pounding computers can barely handle it. The practical effect of computers-in-management has been to increase the workload for everyone at all levels below the level where the computers are installed.
JORN K. LUNDE
Orono, Me., Dec. 8, 1996

We find it to be sadly detrimental to the role of the press in a democratic society that the American public was thus misinformed about the character of this clearly democratic student protest in Belgrade and Serbia. This sort of writing paradoxically places you on the same political side as the undemocratic media and the Government in Belgrade. Finally, let us add that this student protest is now supported by more than 1,500 professors at Belgrade University.
MLADEN LAZIC
Belgrade, Serbia, Dec. 13, 1996
The writer, a sociologist, signed this letter along with four other professors at Belgrade University.

A Service Economy

To the Editor:
In the Dec. 8 Week in Review article "What Has the Computer Done for Us Lately?" you overlook the fact that the reason the United States is not "meeting" the "national" wealth growth rates of the 1950's and 60's is that our economy has become largely a service sector one, in which industrial production is not occurring to the same extent as in previous decades.
No amount of computer use can create substantive production if the economic foundation is increasingly one producing no substance of tangible wealth. But the computer revolution is real. Its "contribution," however, will not be in the form of economic enhancement as much as in the way we interact with each other and the world, for better and for worse.
RONALD PERKEL
Somerville, N.J., Dec. 8, 1996

The decision to refuse all journalists permission to enter the philosophy faculty building was not made by the students, but by the heads of the faculty. Moreover, the protest rallies have never opened with the old Serbian anthem "God Give Us Justice," but with the old academic anthem "Gaudeamus Ignitur."
We find it to be sadly detrimental to the role of the press in a democratic society that the American public was thus misinformed about the character of this clearly democratic student protest in Belgrade and Serbia. This sort of writing paradoxically places you on the same political side as the undemocratic media and the Government in Belgrade. Finally, let us add that this student protest is now supported by more than 1,500 professors at Belgrade University.
MLADEN LAZIC
Belgrade, Serbia, Dec. 13, 1996
The writer, a sociologist, signed this letter along with four other professors at Belgrade University.

No amount of computer use can create substantive production if the economic foundation is increasingly one producing no substance of tangible wealth. But the computer revolution is real. Its "contribution," however, will not be in the form of economic enhancement as much as in the way we interact with each other and the world, for better and for worse.
RONALD PERKEL
Somerville, N.J., Dec. 8, 1996

We find it to be sadly detrimental to the role of the press in a democratic society that the American public was thus misinformed about the character of this clearly democratic student protest in Belgrade and Serbia. This sort of writing paradoxically places you on the same political side as the undemocratic media and the Government in Belgrade. Finally, let us add that this student protest is now supported by more than 1,500 professors at Belgrade University.
MLADEN LAZIC
Belgrade, Serbia, Dec. 13, 1996
The writer, a sociologist, signed this letter along with four other professors at Belgrade University.

Unitarians' Spirituality

To the Editor:
The Dec. 8 news article "Unitarians Striking Chord of Spirituality" describes the movement, by some Unitarians, away from humanism in search of spirituality.
We are aware of the cultural shift in which many people are seeking "spirituality." This does not, however, need to result in rejecting a humanist perspective. Religious humanism leads one to celebrate the sacred in everyday life while still being deeply committed to reason, experience and human worth. A deepening reflective practice and a desire for meaningful ceremonies that celebrate the significance of life passages and communal events are elements in this process of honoring the human journey.
DON JOHNSON
New York, Dec. 10, 1996

The decision to refuse all journalists permission to enter the philosophy faculty building was not made by the students, but by the heads of the faculty. Moreover, the protest rallies have never opened with the old Serbian anthem "God Give Us Justice," but with the old academic anthem "Gaudeamus Ignitur."
We find it to be sadly detrimental to the role of the press in a democratic society that the American public was thus misinformed about the character of this clearly democratic student protest in Belgrade and Serbia. This sort of writing paradoxically places you on the same political side as the undemocratic media and the Government in Belgrade. Finally, let us add that this student protest is now supported by more than 1,500 professors at Belgrade University.
MLADEN LAZIC
Belgrade, Serbia, Dec. 13, 1996
The writer, a sociologist, signed this letter along with four other professors at Belgrade University.

We are aware of the cultural shift in which many people are seeking "spirituality." This does not, however, need to result in rejecting a humanist perspective. Religious humanism leads one to celebrate the sacred in everyday life while still being deeply committed to reason, experience and human worth. A deepening reflective practice and a desire for meaningful ceremonies that celebrate the significance of life passages and communal events are elements in this process of honoring the human journey.
DON JOHNSON
New York, Dec. 10, 1996

Maybe the war-crimes tribunal in The Hague will now find the political courage to indict Mr. Milosevic for his international crimes, beginning with the genocide in Croatia in 1991.
At the same time, Muslim and Croatian survivors of the Serbian genocide in Bosnia are disheartened to see individuals like Vuk Draskovic trumpeted uncritically as head of a Serbian democratic opposition. He is a longtime supporter of World War II Serbian fascists and the recent founder and head of the Serbian Guard, a fascist militia group reported to have committed atrocities in Croatia and Bosnia.
In the 1980's, Mr. Draskovic was a best-selling author of anti-Muslim hate propaganda that helped set the stage for the current genocide. He is for a Greater Serbia, a "democratic opposition" figure who denies human rights calls for closer scrutiny.
Today Serbian protesters wave the Serbian fascist three-finger salute. Perhaps the Hague tribunal will expose its meaning, as the Nuremberg trials did for the "Heil Hitler" salute.
ATHARINE A. MACKNON
Ann Arbor, Mich., Dec. 11, 1996
The writer, a University of Michigan law professor, is lead counsel in a suit against Radovan Karadzic.

Maybe the war-crimes tribunal in The Hague will now find the political courage to indict Mr. Milosevic for his international crimes, beginning with the genocide in Croatia in 1991.
At the same time, Muslim and Croatian survivors of the Serbian genocide in Bosnia are disheartened to see individuals like Vuk Draskovic trumpeted uncritically as head of a Serbian democratic opposition. He is a longtime supporter of World War II Serbian fascists and the recent founder and head of the Serbian Guard, a fascist militia group reported to have committed atrocities in Croatia and Bosnia.
In the 1980's, Mr. Draskovic was a best-selling author of anti-Muslim hate propaganda that helped set the stage for the current genocide. He is for a Greater Serbia, a "democratic opposition" figure who denies human rights calls for closer scrutiny.
Today Serbian protesters wave the Serbian fascist three-finger salute. Perhaps the Hague tribunal will expose its meaning, as the Nuremberg trials did for the "Heil Hitler" salute.
ATHARINE A. MACKNON
Ann Arbor, Mich., Dec. 11, 1996
The writer, a University of Michigan law professor, is lead counsel in a suit against Radovan Karadzic.

Maybe the war-crimes tribunal in The Hague will now find the political courage to indict Mr. Milosevic for his international crimes, beginning with the genocide in Croatia in 1991.
At the same time, Muslim and Croatian survivors of the Serbian genocide in Bosnia are disheartened to see individuals like Vuk Draskovic trumpeted uncritically as head of a Serbian democratic opposition. He is a longtime supporter of World War II Serbian fascists and the recent founder and head of the Serbian Guard, a fascist militia group reported to have committed atrocities in Croatia and Bosnia.
In the 1980's, Mr. Draskovic was a best-selling author of anti-Muslim hate propaganda that helped set the stage for the current genocide. He is for a Greater Serbia, a "democratic opposition" figure who denies human rights calls for closer scrutiny.
Today Serbian protesters wave the Serbian fascist three-finger salute. Perhaps the Hague tribunal will expose its meaning, as the Nuremberg trials did for the "Heil Hitler" salute.
ATHARINE A. MACKNON
Ann Arbor, Mich., Dec. 11, 1996
The writer, a University of Michigan law professor, is lead counsel in a suit against Radovan Karadzic.

The 'Chetnik' Record

To the Editor:
As a civil rights and human rights lawyer who teaches law students on a full-time basis, I applauded the Serbian students' protests against Slobodan Milosevic for his illegal nullification of democratically held Serbian elections. Reading about the protest movement gave me hope that the younger generation would lift Serbia from its repressive state. My hopes were deflated not only by your Dec. 10 article "Student Foes of Belgrade Leader Embrace Fierce Serb Nationalism," but also by the seemingly benign photograph that accompanied the article.
One of the pictured student leaders wears a baseball cap with the logo "Chetniks." The term originated as a derogatory name for the Serbian military in World War II. It was resurrected as an accolade of pride by Bosnian Serb paramilitary groups in their campaign to cleanse Bosnia of Muslims and Croats.
In 1994, while on the legal staff of the United Nations Commission of Experts Established to Investigate

For the Love of Money

To the Editor:
Russell Baker says in "Sweet Is the Lure" (column, Dec. 10) that no matter whether church, school, business, sports — "everything is about money." But when he refers to money as the root of all evil, he is making a common misquotation of the Christian Scripture, which says that "the love of money is the root of all evil" (1 Timothy, 6:10).
It is our understanding that every season is a time for connecting with the Holy beyond us and those in need among us. Money is only one way to do that, but it is an important way. As we pass the plate, we invite all to remember those who are less fortunate, even as we are grateful for columnists who help us see in new ways, or who help us remind each other of the true meaning of some of the old ways.
STEPHANIE WEINER
Senior Minister
Union Congregational Church
Montclair, N.J., Dec. 10, 1996

The New York Times Company
225 West 43rd St., N.Y. 10036-3998
ARTHUR OCHS SULZBERGER, Chairman
Chief Executive Officer
RUSSELL T. LEWIS, President
Chief Operating Officer
DAVID L. COHEN, Senior Vice President
Deputy Chief Operating Officer
DANIEL B. BAKER, Senior Vice President
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
KATHERINE F. DARESON, Senior Vice President
LEONARD E. FORBMAN, Senior Vice President
JOHN M. O'BRIEN, Senior Vice President
DONALD S. SCHNEIDER, Senior Vice President
SOLOMON B. WATSON IV, Senior Vice President
LAURA J. COBWIN, Secretary

The Times welcomes letters from readers. Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. Those selected may be shortened for space reasons. Fax letters to (212) 556-3622 or send by electronic mail to letters@nytimes.com, or by regular mail to Letters to the Editor, The New York Times, 225 West 43rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036-3998.

Micro. Macro. And Way Beyond

Micro, Macro And Way Beyond

By David Hackett Fischer

AWAYLAND, Mass. — A recent article in The Washington Post reported that more and more experts believe that "the U.S. economy, after a quarter-century of painful ups and downs, appears to have entered a new period of stability in which recessions no longer seem inevitable." The experts' conclusion, the article said, "is that the business cycle, if not extinct, is a candidate for the endangered species list."

Those statements bring to mind an immortal prophecy by Irving Fisher, a leading economist in the early 20th century, that stock prices had reached "a permanently high plateau." This remark was made nine days before the Great Crash of 1929. Strong assertions that we are emancipated from business cycles tend to be cyclical indicators in their own right. They come after a long boom, and sometimes, but not always, before a big bust.

The "painful ups and downs" of economic history are still very much with us, as the drops on Wall Street and the roiling of markets around the world last week reminded us.

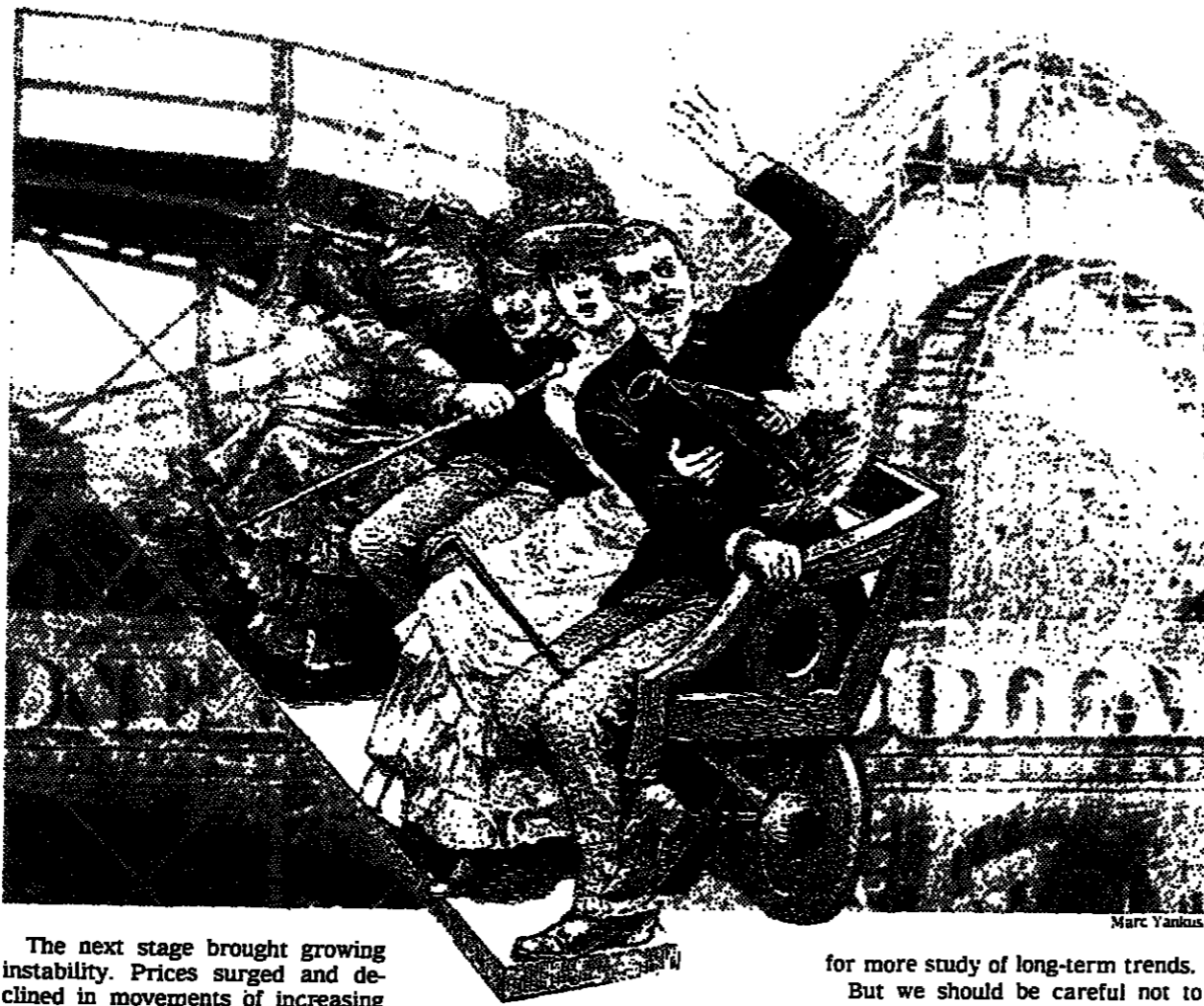
These economic fluctuations continue to occur not only in the form of short business cycles but also as very long historical movements.

Students of long-term change have compiled data spanning many centuries of economic history. The leading example of these studies is a remarkable index of "consumable prices" in southern England over the last 800 years, constructed by two British scholars, Sir Henry Phelps-Brown and Sheila Hopkins. They discovered that the market prices of food, drink, fuel and textiles have been rising since the 12th century, at an average rate of about 1 percent each year.

But this study, and others like it, also found that inflation has not been constant. Nearly all of the increases in the past eight centuries have occurred in four distinct periods of rising prices, which historians call price revolutions.

These movements were not fixed cycles but irregular waves, no more (or less) predictable than individual waves in the sea.

The first wave, the medieval price revolution, began as early as the late 12th century and continued to the mid-14th century. Next was the price revolution of the 16th century, which actually started about 1475 and continued to the middle of the 17th century. A third wave, the price revolution



The next stage brought growing instability. Prices surged and declined in movements of increasing volatility. Food and fuel always led the advance; manufactured goods lagged behind.

Commodity markets suffered severe price shocks. Financial markets became highly volatile. The amount of money in circulation was alternately expanded and contracted.

Government spending outgrew revenue. Public and private debt soared. Even the strongest nation-states suffered severely from fiscal stress: The Government of Spain went bankrupt at least six times between 1557 and 1647; France struggled under a mountain of debt in the late 18th century, just as the United States has in the last decade.

Real wages began to fall, but returns on capital investment increased. The rich grew richer, those in the middle lost ground, and the poor suffered terribly. Inequality of wealth increased, as did hunger, homelessness, crime, violence, and illegitimacy.

These economic events had cultural consequences. In literature and the arts, this stage of every price revolution was an era of dark visions and restless dreams. The late 16th and early 17th centuries, for example, saw the demonic fantasies of Pieter Brueghel, the spiritual suffering of El Greco and the harsh realism of Georges de la Tour. Intellectuals raged against their own societies. Young people gave way to alienation, anomie and cultural despair.

Finally, each great wave crested and broke with shattering force. The

After many years of equilibrium and comparative peace, a new trend appeared. Populations started to grow more rapidly. Demand for goods and services increased. And another great wave began.

The causes of great waves were highly complex. In large part they were driven by increased demand

Are we coming to the end of the fourth great economic cycle?

for products and services, caused by rising populations and other factors. Monetary factors also had a large effect, especially in middle and later stages. Environmental stresses such as poor farming conditions also had a major impact, especially in periods of general crisis.

These waves are very clear in the historical record. But they do not tell us what will happen next. This is because of the nature of history itself. Each wave rises from a sequence of individual choices. As long as this is so, history will never be a predictive science.

But we can form a rough sense of our historical context. Today, we appear to be somewhere in the late stages of a price revolution that began 100 years ago, as a result of growing world population relative to the supply of land and resources. After a long period of volatility during two world wars and the Great Depression, this long inflation became increasingly apparent during the 1960's. People's responses caused growing imbalances and instability. The results included the price shocks, stagflations, falling real wages and rising inequality of the 1970's and 1980's.

Today, rates of population growth are dropping throughout the world. Inflation has declined worldwide, but it still continues at rates of 1 to 4 percent in Western Europe and North America, 7 to 10 percent in China and India, and 20 to 30 percent in many countries.

The great wave of our time still goes on. It could continue for many years, or, as some evidence suggests, it may be approaching its end. Many parts of the world are now in crises that are very similar to the climaxes of earlier great waves. The great wave of the 20th century has already helped to bring down Socialist regimes in Eastern Europe, tyrannies in Latin America and secular governments in Islam. Many African countries are in the grip of suffering as severe as that of the 14th century.

If this turns out to be a pivotal moment in economic history, how we end this great wave depends on the choices that we make.

The first step is to try to understand these dangerous movements through careful and honest research. The world is drowning in statistical data, but not the data that we most urgently need to understand our condition. Every week we study the latest price flutters as if they were soothsayers' bones. But the contextual knowledge that we require to make sense of this information is left mainly to an academic cottage industry.

The Federal Government's excellent Bureau of Labor Statistics receives much criticism and little support. It would be an ideal body to study historical trends.

The Boskin Commission, which criticized the bureau's method of measuring inflation, was right to call

Foreign Affairs

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

What the Goose Eats

HONG KONG — Lu Ping, the Chinese official managing Beijing's takeover of Hong Kong, was explaining a while ago why press freedom in Hong Kong would have to be regulated after the city reverts to China on July 1. To make his point, Mr. Lu opted for an analogy. He said in all seriousness that if a journalist in America were to call for a different form of government or for the independence of Hawaii, "Will it be allowed? I don't think so." Therefore, he added, it's hardly unusual that journalists in Hong Kong would be barred from calling for the independence of Hong Kong or for a new government in Beijing.

Mr. Lu's statement tells you everything you need to know — and to worry about — regarding China's assumption of control over Hong Kong, the first time in history that a part of the free world is being absorbed by a Communist state. I believe China has no desire to intentionally harm Hong Kong's unique, freewheeling character. Hong Kong is a goose that lays golden eggs. But while China's intentions may be benign, its capabilities are another matter. As one senior Hong Kong official remarked to me, "I'm not sure they really understand what the goose eats."

China's incentives for preserving Hong Kong's special character are many: If China absorbs Hong Kong successfully, without undermining it, Beijing will at least be able to say to the people of Taiwan, "Look, you too can come back to the motherland without losing your special status." But if China fails in Hong Kong, Beijing can kiss goodbye forever the notion of a peaceful unification with Taiwan. China has an obvious economic incentive in keeping Hong Kong a magnet for investment in China, and Beijing also has a deep desire to prove it can rule Hong Kong better than the British imperialists, who seized Hong Kong from China 150 years ago in the Opium War.

But there's the rub. Hong Kong is not just another Chinese city, once lost and now being reabsorbed by the motherland. Hong Kong today is the epitome of a postindustrial city. It is now much more of a global village than a Chinese village. More than 80 percent of its people work in services directed to the global economy. It has moved far beyond the days when it made plastic flowers and cheap radios. It is now a beehive of knowledge-based industries serving Asia. It is an energetic city that thrives by being

fast, not by being big, and its particular skill is putting together faster than anyone else those deals where the money is raised in Wall Street, the legal framework, design and marketing are done in Hong Kong, and the backroom manufacturing is done somewhere else in Asia. But a knowledge-based city depends on the free flow of information and ideas and on transparent transactions. That's what this goose eats. No info, no eggs.

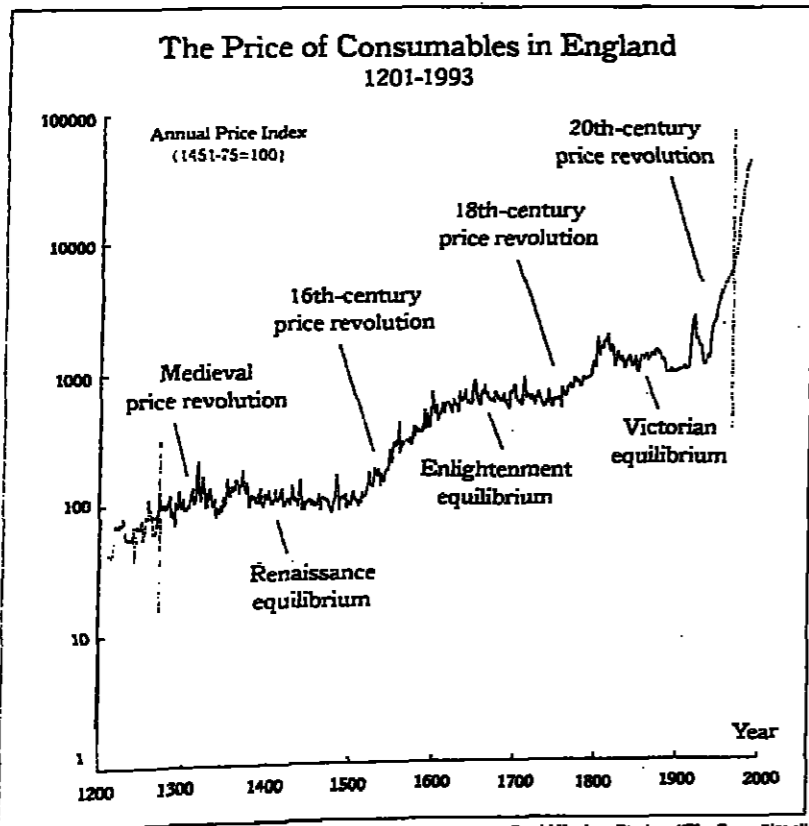
In other words, Hong Kong's return to China is not just a slice of the West being given back to the East, it is a slice of the future being given back to

Will China force-feed Hong Kong?

the past. And whatever their intentions, the capabilities of China's leaders to understand the importance of free information for a city like Hong Kong, and their capabilities to manage that information flow without debasing it with whispers, raised eyebrows or pressures for self-censorship, are still very limited. (See Lu Ping.) As one diplomat here remarked to me of China's aging leaders: "These guys did not have lemonade stands when they were little" — they put no value on the free flow of information, they truly believe that you can separate free economic speech from free political speech.

"Hong Kong is a bridge culture, China is a fortress culture," remarked Michael DeGolyer, who is monitoring the transition at Hong Kong Baptist University. "Bridge cultures live off tolls — they make a little bit of money on each transaction. The more openness, the more traffic, the more interactions, the more flows of information, the better Hong Kong does. But China's image is the Great Wall. China interacted with the world for years by selectively opening doors to the outside and then letting visitors into very small, confined rooms."

So, what worries me about Hong Kong's future is not what China knows about Hong Kong, but what it doesn't know. What worries me is not whether China will do big things to change Hong Kong, but whether it will understand that even doing little things will ultimately spoil this unique city's unique character. □

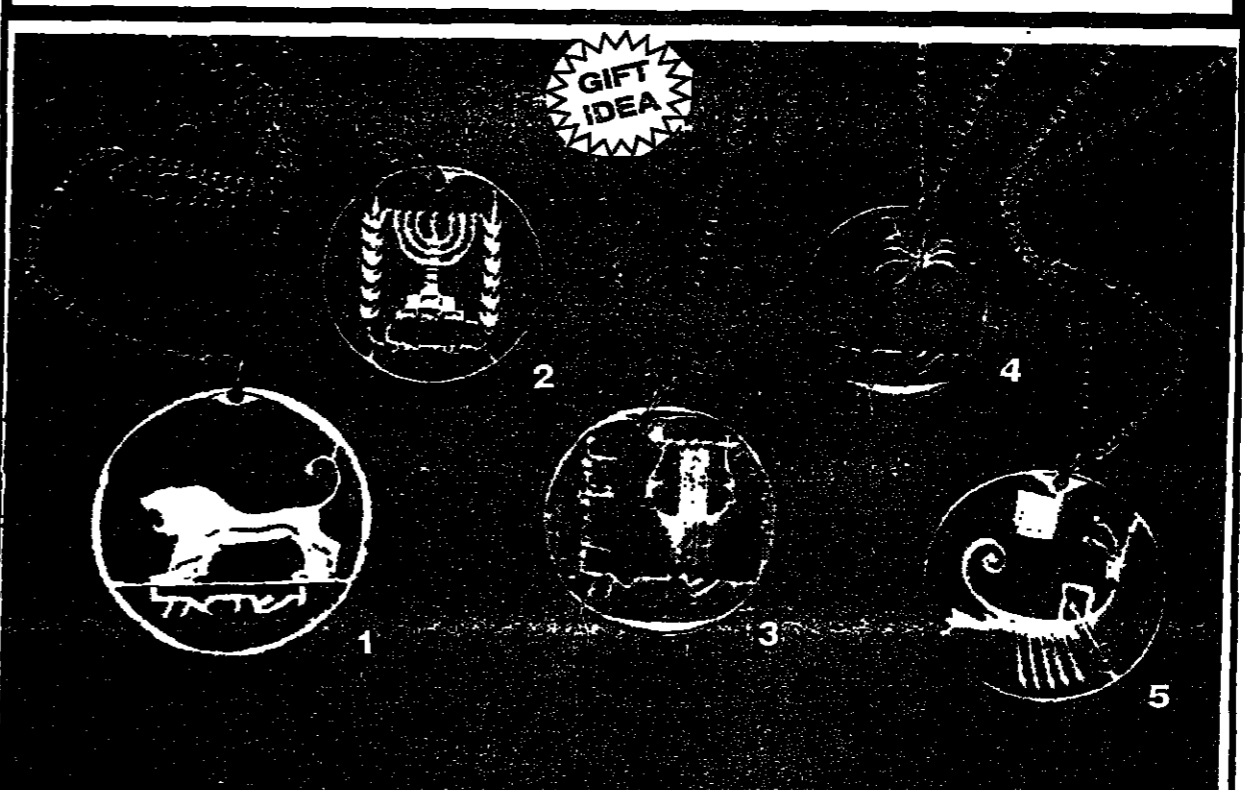


of the 18th century, began in 1729 and reached its climax around 1812-15. The fourth wave commenced in 1896 and has continued to our own time. Mark Twain observed that history does not repeat itself, but it rhymes. So it did in these great movements. Some lasted as long as 175 years, others were as short as 85 years. Each wave was a unique historical event, but all had the same structure. They began silently in periods of high prosperity; at first scarcely anyone recognized them as long-term trends.

After several decades, a new stage began. Prices rose beyond the range of previous fluctuations. As people became aware of the new wave, they responded by raising rents, increasing interest rates and hoarding commodities. These individual choices drove the general price level higher.

David Hackett Fischer, professor of history at Brandeis University, is the author of "The Great Wave: Price Revolutions and the Rhythm of History."

Historical Creations



Demonstrating fine, unusual skill, Israeli artisan Itzik Peleg has created beautiful medallions, by hollowing out Israeli coins no longer in use, and plating them with 24 karat gold. Each medallion in the selection displays the name Israel in Hebrew, preserved from the coin, and a historical inscription or symbol dating from the days of Bar Kochba:

1. The Lion, symbol of the tribe of Judah
2. The Seven Branched Candelabrum, holy artifact used in the days of the Temple
3. David's Harp, representing King David's harp, mentioned in the Bible
4. The Date Palm, one of the Seven Species of Eretz Yisrael
5. An Ancient Ship, representing seamanship and the art of shipbuilding in the time of Solomon

Each coin tells a story of Biblical Israel. An ideal gift for friends and loved ones. Chain included with each medallion.

JP Price: NIS 175 each

Including door-to-door delivery (where available)

To: **MARV** c/o The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000. Tel. 02-241282.

Please send me the Coin Medallions listed below:

Lion Candelabrum David's Harp Date Palm Ancient Ship

Enclosed is my check for NIS 175 each, payable to The Jerusalem Post, or credit card details: (For registered overseas air mail, please add NIS 12).

Visa Isracard Diners

CC No. _____ Exp. _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Tel. _____

*Please list gift recipients' names and addresses separately, and we'll send them the medallion, with a gift notice in your name.

F I L M

From Claude Chabrol, a French 'Thelma and Louise'

In his film 'La Cérémonie,' the director puts two women together to make an explosion.

By ALAN RIDING

CLAUDE CHABROL is not one for making overtly political movies, but he could not resist adding what he calls a touch of Marxism to his latest movie, "La Cérémonie." Not that anything immediately resembling politics is present. It is just that this veteran French director thought it rather topical to remind audiences that social resentment is alive and well despite the end of the cold war and the oft-proclaimed death of ideology.

"I have heard rich industrialists saying that class warfare is over, but it's really not up to them," said Mr.

Chabrol, 66, who looked every bit the political science professor as he puffed on his pipe in his producer's office here. "It's up to the workers to say it's over. And, in truth, the happier the industrialists are, the more worried I am. People's frustrations have to go somewhere, and if they don't go into dreams, they explode."

In "La Cérémonie," they explode, not in revolution but in a way that is evidently satisfying to Sophie, an illiterate maid played by Sandrine Bonnaire, and her friend Jeanne (Isabelle Huppert), an angry young woman who works in a village post office. Loners, underprivileged, social outcasts, they have as class enemies the deeply bourgeois family of Georges Lelièvre (Jean-Pierre Cassel), his wife, Catherine (Jacqueline Bisset), and their two children. And they eventually have the last word.

"La Cérémonie," which opens in New York on Friday, has been acclaimed by French critics as one of Mr. Chabrol's best films in years. Adapted from Ruth Rendell's novel "A Judgment in Stone," it won Ms. Bonnaire and Ms. Huppert best actress awards at the 1995 Venice film festival; Ms. Huppert also won a César, a French Oscar, for best actress.

The film, Mr. Chabrol's 48th in a career that stretches back almost 40 years, marks the fourth time he has cast the diminutive and wan Ms. Huppert, 41, in a major role. He is again working with her on his new film, "Rien Ne Va Plus," which will carry the English title "No More Laughs."

More than many of his recent movies, "La Cérémonie" carries Mr. Chabrol's film noir stamp. That is, it is a psychological thriller in the Hitchcockian mode built around women, his favorite subject. In this case, he even wrote the screenplay with a psychologist, Caroline Elia-Cheff, who is married to the movie's producer, Marin Karmitz. Ms. Elia-Cheff has worked professionally with children who have difficulty learning to read, an experience that proved enormously helpful in shaping the character of Sophie, who is central to the movie.

"Illiterate adults develop amazing skills in order to hide their problem," Mr. Chabrol said. "In Sophie's case, she could recognize the letter 'p' and the letter 'e' but she could not join them to say 'pe.'"

This in turn becomes a metaphor for the relationship between Sophie and Jeanne.

"On their own, each is a victim of no importance," Mr. Chabrol explained. "But when you bring them together, they become a dangerous weapon. Jeanne is the vowel and Sophie the consonant. Psychologists know this phenomenon well. Each individual is harmless, but together they create an explosive chemical reaction. It's like Bonnie and Clyde, like Thelma and Louise."

In "La Cérémonie" Sophie and Jeanne are lost souls, but they bond when they discover they are both fleeing a dubious past: each was suspected of murder and, although acquitted in court, neither seems certain of her own innocence. Jeanne is the stronger of the two, if only because she can read. Yet without Sophie, her suppressed need to wreak vengeance on society would never have taken form.

Despite the dark roles he gives them in his films, Mr. Chabrol likes to say that he likes women. Certainly, "La Cérémonie" confirms that he remains absolutely fascinated by women after a lifetime of movie-making that began in 1958 with "Le Beau Serge" and has produced such acclaimed films as "La Femme Infidèle," "Le Boucher," and "Violette"



Sandrine Bonnaire and the director Claude Chabrol working on "La Cérémonie"—Class warfare.



Isabelle Huppert in "La Cérémonie"—"He gives you the chance to create your own character," she says of Claude Chabrol.

and "Story of Women," both with Ms. Huppert.

More recently, Mr. Chabrol made his version of Flaubert's 19th-century shocker "Madame Bovary" (also with Ms. Huppert), the story of a young woman trapped in a boring marriage who dreams of a life of passion. He then cast Marie Trintignant in "Betty" as a married woman who flees home to escape her life of promiscuity. And in "L'Enfer," a woman named Nelly, played by Emmanuelle Béart, has a husband who is crazed with jealousy for no apparent reason except that, well, she is Ms. Béart.

In a review of "La Cérémonie" in Le Figaro, the critic Claude Baignères noted that Mr. Chabrol was once again in his element. "Women are in general at the center of all the tumult," he wrote, "because he likes them for their cunning, their whims, their instincts, their obsessions, their contradictions, their fear of nothing. He loves their unpredictability." (The movie, which opened here two years ago, did well in French theaters.)

The director had a more solemn explanation. "Women are much more worthy than men," he said. "They live in a world that is still very macho. So to be heroines, they don't have to do extraordinary things: It's enough for them to be

women to have very real problems. And they are much stronger than men. They're more realistic. They have their feet on the ground. Which is why I think it's outrageous that women don't run countries."

So does Mr. Chabrol, now on his third marriage, understand women? "Yes, he does," Ms. Huppert said. "He doesn't idealize women in the way people do in most films. He just shows them the way they are. Not victims, not fighters, somewhere in between. I like his way of portraying women."

She also enjoys working with him. "I think with him I have the best relationship with a director that an actor could dream of," said Ms. Huppert, who has made some 50 films. "It's a combination of feeling completely free and creative and imaginative and yet feeling completely controlled by him. He gives you the chance to create your own character, yet he has a precise idea of what he wants. But he doesn't tell you. He just lets things happen, so you never feel limited by him."

Mr. Chabrol said he invited Ms. Huppert to choose between the roles of Sophie and Jeanne — and was glad when she picked Jeanne. He was also delighted when she suggested that Ms. Bonnaire play Sophie; he

was already in touch with Ms. Bonnaire, with whom he had not worked before. And, he added, the two women worked together as the perfect team.

"I was more open, more alive, more vivid than I seem to be in most of my parts with Chabrol," Ms. Huppert said. "I have never found such an interesting role in the sense that I explored things which seemed new to some people yet were very close to me. The part was very close to my nature, to what I am really like." She laughed at the thought. "Except for the end, of course," she said, referring to the unexpectedly violent denouement.

Mr. Chabrol in turn said that he continued to be attracted by rather tortured stories about women because he believed that most people were consumed by pessimism.

"I am perfectly happy," he said, "and that's what's so horrible. If I'm happy, there's no reason why other people can't be happy. But I sometimes think that if God exists, He must be a bit perverse because He has made humans slightly inferior to the level they need to live happily. That's why people go to the movies, to escape their lives. My idea is not to distract them. Rather, it's to try to clarify a thing or two."

Teaching Through Film

By PAM BELLUCK

WHEN Kenneth Branagh's "Hamlet" opens on Christmas Day, the average person who sees it may be struck by Ophelia (Kate Winslet) in a straitjacket or tickled by Billy Crystal's Brooklyn-accented gravedigger.

But if the folks at Castle Rock Entertainment have gauged things correctly, thousands of high school students will be instructed to "re-write Hamlet's speech in your own words" and "describe the modern-day equivalent" of "the one character with whom you can most closely identify": Ophelia, Laertes, Horatio, Guildenstern, the Gravedigger or Fortinbras.

Of course, Castle Rock does not really care whether teen-agers see themselves as Fortinbras, the menacing prince of Norway who spends his on-screen time plotting war strategy in slow motion, or as the lying school chum of Hamlet's who, with Rosencrantz, is put to death in the end. The important thing is that the youngsters see the movie — and maybe tell their parents and friends to do the same.

"Hamlet: The Study Guide" is coming soon to a teacher's curriculum prep period near you. And "Hamlet" is far from the only movie to have sought out school teachers to be promotional emissaries.

There are study guides for "Mother Night," based on the Kurt Vonnegut novel of the same title, "Twelfth Night," "Dead Man Walking," "Hoop Dreams," "Schindler's List," "Gorillas in the Mist," "My Family: Mi Familia," the documentary "Looking for Richard" and "Mr. Holland's Opus."

There is a CD-ROM "educational civil rights tool" for "Ghosts of Mississippi," a movie that opens on Friday. And for "Shine," the new film based on the life of a troubled child prodigy pianist, the study guide deals with everything from water imagery to the "significance of eyeglasses."

In an ideal world, the guides supplement classroom curriculum. "If they're reading the play and they're looking at the movie as well, that's not bad," said David Denby, a film critic and the author of the recently published "Great Books: My Adventures with Homer, Rousseau, Woolf and Other Indestructible Writers of the Western World." "But if they're just looking at 'Hamlet' without reading the play, then it's marketing. I think it's just a shortcut for teachers insofar as they allow themselves to be exploited by people

Study guides are now an integral part of the movie-making machine.

who are marketing the movies." "If you're interested in water imagery," he added, "read poetry. Don't go see 'Shine.'"

Teachers, however, tend to welcome the guides on the grounds that they encourage educated viewers and help students penetrate otherwise ponderous classics.

"It just helps to bridge the connections between them and literature in a way that's current," said Catherine Goldsmith, an English teacher who has used the "Looking for Richard" guide in her 10th-grade class at West Babylon High School on Long Island. "It makes it easy for the teacher."

Whatever their merit, there is no question that study guides, which are distributed to thousands of teachers across the country, have become an integral part of the movie-making machine. They are sent to science classes, social studies classes — anything that might relate to the movie. The guide for "Shine," for example, was sent to teachers of music, psychology, sociology and history, the last because "Shine," however tangentially, "touches on the whole Holocaust aspect," said Vincent Nebrida, senior manager for marketing and special projects of Fine Line Features.

The bilingual study guide for the 1995 film "My Family: Mi Familia" was sent to schools with Hispanic students. Assignments included creating a family tree with help from parents. ("Studios, of course, like that — to reach parents," said Roberta Nusim, president of Youth Marketing International, which created the guide.)

Video releases are often an excuse to send study guides to even more teachers. The guides are also available on the Internet. There are even study guides for television movies: "The Ann Jiliann Story" came with a study guide on breast cancer, and there was a study guide for the television movie "Gulliver's Travels," starring Ted Danson.

"Here's a classic — it's hard to read," said Dominic Kinsley, executive vice president and editor in chief of Lifetime Learning Systems, which produced the "Gulliver" study guide. "Here's a great opportunity for the 85 percent of people who are

never going to read that book to know what it's about. You see the movie."

Teachers who use the guides are not alone in praising them. Neil Postman, chairman of the department of culture and communications at New York University and the author of "Television and the Teaching of English," said that film and television "ought to be taken more seriously by teachers" because they are not going to go away. Even Peggy Charren, founder of Action for Children's Television and a vehement critic of Chris Whittle's Channel 1, which brings news broadcasts and advertising into school rooms, found little to criticize in the study guides.

"Generally, they don't make guides for rotten films," she said, "like something where they chop up Grandma on the dining room table. So if it is promotion, at least it's promoting the kinds of things that need promoting."

For film companies, of course, education is an incidental byproduct of the guides.

"I'm not taking a cynical view of it," said Mr. Nebrida of Fine Line. "Everyone just thinks in terms of marketing." He paused, then added, "But beyond that I think it's a really good form of educating people."

Apparently, study guides do make for good marketing. Ms. Nusim, who was behind the guides for "Hamlet," "Dead Man Walking" and hundreds of others, said she conducted a survey of high school students in the late 1980's and found that 28 percent of students in a class saw a film in movie theaters when the teachers used a study guide, compared with only 16 percent when no study guide was used.

Created primarily by former teachers, the study guides are carefully written so as not to offend teachers' sensibilities. "You really need to know how to talk to teachers to make sure that you're not overstepping what they do in the classroom," said Ms. Nusim, who spent 15 years teaching English in public schools in the Bronx and Manhattan and who got started in the movie study guide business with the 1979 film "Kramer vs. Kramer." "I've always made sure that everything we do has that stamp of educational viability."

The guides (and, often, movie posters) are sent directly to teachers to bypass school bureaucracy and pique interest. "When teachers get something themselves, it's special," said Dr. Kinsley, a former English professor at Yale University. "When it comes from your principal, it's work."

BUMPER TO BUMPER

By RANDOLPH ROSS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS 1 Hosp. areas 4 Orbital extreme 9 Fed 13 Mea 18 "Treckon not" 19 Affair (Civil War imbroglio) 20 Michener title 22 1995 N.B.A. scoring leader 23 Business firm, in France; Abbr. 24 Page 2, usually 25 Ratify 26 Software buyers 27 Wing it 29 Relief pitchers 31 Hardy grass 33 Measuring system 35 Popular sporting fish 37 Gen. Pershing's command; Abbr. 38 Spread the word? 39 Tartan skirt 40 Masks 45 Georgia, once; Abbr. 46 Day, to Dayan 48 Campaign pro 49 Sample 50 Divvy up 51 "Behold," to Boethius 52 Harper's Weekly cartoonist 54 Singer Harris 56 The tiniest bit 59 Slugger's stat 62 Opposite of paleo- 63 Def Jam records genre 64 Traffic jam 72 Traffic jam 73 Traffic jam 74 Fleur-de- 75 Author Stanislaw 76 Young socialite 77 "The Flowering Peach" playwright 78 He wore a top hat in "Top Hat" 82 First word of "Send in the Clowns" 84 Overdue 86 Earthshaking event 87 White House inits. 89 Sports governing body; Abbr. 91 Author of "The Island of the Day Before" 92 Vacation spot 95 Even more distressing 97 Optimist, of sorts 99 Neptune moon 101 The dove-like is one 102 Film heptad. 105 Plan out 106 TV dinner name 110 "Semiramis" composer 112 "Fiddler on the Roof" role 113 Day of la semaine 114 Like some traffic barriers 116 Battlefield V.I.P. 118 Sticky stuff 119 Club publication 120 Paris cultural center 121 Be behind 122 Poetic preposition 123 Troll's cousin 124 Flagstone, e.g. 125 Davis of "Get On the Bus" 126 Wino's woe

DOWN 1 Prepares to spend the night 2 Al Davis's men 3 Harbor 4 Traffic jam 5 Post's opposite 6 Lord's lackey 7 Put one's foot down 8 Save for a rainy day 9 Traffic jam 10 Jason's wife, in myth 11 Nerve fibers 12 Tot's time-out 13 Traffic jam 14 With risk 15 Groucho expression 16 Auditor's aim 17 Plus 21 Sault — Marie 25 "Cybill" character 30 Popular brand of stationery 32 — Jacinto Day (April 21) 34 Kiss flavor; Abbr. 36 Poli — 41 Ready to be turned on 42 Best effort 43 Elton's John 44 God name for a cabin attendant 47 Diving ducks 49 Had a tantrum 51 Fragrant resin 53 Large chain 55 City on the Ocmulgee River 56 Parts of days, in the classifieds 57 Flag 58 Saroyan hero 60 — fond farewell to 61 It can cause a shock 65 Asphyxiation cause 66 Diminutive endings 67 Heckled 68 — Island 69 Hitchcock title 70 " — a man who wasn't there" 71 Sheepskin alternatives, for short 72 Matter of fact introduction? 79 One in it for the long term?; Abbr. 80 Prescription abbr. 81 Construction of 1898-1902 83 Balzac's birthplace 85 Is decisive 88 Mayo, e.g. 90 Words before fame or after lay 92 Pinned pennies 93 Toaster snack 94 Scorpio's brightest star 96 Howard Hughes studio 98 Record holders 100 Incense 103 Synthetic fiber 104 Shearer of "Peeping Tom" 106 Kind of alert 107 Alert 108 Ship to Colchis 109 Bilko, for one; Abbr. 111 Castor's killer 115 Photo — 117 Grandson, maybe

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE
SIARA SAIL OUIST CARRS
SIBURA ASIA BEEAV OSHEA
NIESCORES SPANISHWHEEL
AUSWEFISHWOODS NEGATEE
GHADAM ONT AUBA
OPERATING SENTENCED
LADIE ABEE GARDIO COLLE
AQUO SHALL AITOM ARTE
LES ENGLISHBURN TERNIO
ASPTABE ARMA SHRINE
BAIRDO ERE PATIOS
ELOPED VEZE GUNSHIP
RIDES MUSHMUSHING WEB
AIED DELTA LEAST SORA
TUS CARRS BELT OUBO
GUEARRS RUCSANA
LOIS DART WASHED
BENIGS PORTER
CHACHURBLET GUYCHHANS
OBYUE THEORE AET LIVID
DREAVE ASIDE WAY ARSE

Corruption on the march in Germany

It may begin with a glass of beer. Soon, it may grow into lunch for family and kids. Or an all-expenses-paid visit to the local brothel. Or free decoration on the mother-in-law's coffin.

Experts say corruption is on the march in Germany and warn that so far there seems to be little political will to fight it.

"From A to Z, every office is bribed. No company, no office, no level seems to be immune to corruption," according to Peter Walter, a council representative in Offenbach, near Frankfurt, and a former long-time police officer.

Walter was among a group of experts who attended a recent two-day conference on corruption, organized by the union of German crime fighters.

"Corruption is worse than homicide," said Elke Bleibtreu, chairman of the union, a trade organization that groups police officers, prosecutors and other law-enforcement officials. "It kills the entire society."

The conclusion of the experts: a growing number of German public servants are accepting bribes. The estimated annual damage: 5 billion to 20 billion marks (\$3.2 billion to \$13.1 billion), according to Bleibtreu.

Construction permits, residence permits for foreigners, driving licenses, vehicle registration — all can be bought for a bribe, Bleibtreu said.

"There is corruption among police too," he added. Criminals have been tipped off about impending police raids, he alleged.

Bleibtreu said the Germany of the future might become a land where "nothing is achieved without bribery."

Germany is not about to become a banana republic just yet. In fact, Germany comes out looking pretty good in a survey of least and most corrupt nations issued in June by Transparency International, a Berlin-based multinational organization whose goal is to curb corruption in international business.

A country judged to be corruption-free would be given 10 points and New Zealand came closest with 9.43. At the bottom of the scale was Nigeria with 0.69 points.

Germany was ranked 13th with 8.27, while the US scored 7.66, making it the 15th least-corrupt nation in the views of business executives.

Wolfgang Schaupensteiner, chief Frankfurt prosecutor and a leading anti-corruption crusader, says one difficulty authorities have is obvious: corruption is hard to detect.

But that was only part of the problem.

"We can get a judge to order the bugging of the telephone of a bicycle thief, but not of a corrupt politician. When we discover political corruption, we are not allowed to investigate further," Schaupensteiner said.

"Political corruption is basically not punishable here," he said.

"Some of them who are more honorable may resign but we can't prosecute them," Bleibtreu said.

Schaupensteiner picked one example to show how widespread corruption was.

A recent government auditor's report in the state of Hesse found cases of corruption in every community that was checked. "Do you think you have such cases only in Hesse?" one of Germany's 16 states, he asked rhetorically.

Comprehensive anti-corruption laws have been on the table for a long time but the government has not pushed them through.

In fact, until this year German law allowed companies to deduct from their taxes any bribes they paid to do business abroad.

One of Schaupensteiner's suggestions is to punish those who offer bribes, including bribes masked as donations to one or another political party.

Two foreign experts also attended the session — Leoluca Orlando, the mayor of Palermo in Sicily, and Grigory Omelchenko, chairman of the anti-corruption and organized crime commission of the Ukrainian legislature.

The Germans are eager to adopt the Italian experiences in luring Mafia bosses into becoming witnesses for the state, what Schaupensteiner and other experts consider a key strategy in fighting organized crime.

Omelchenko, who said corruption reached the highest levels in Ukraine, warned about the role newly rich Ukrainian and Russian "businessmen" could have in spreading corruption in the West.

He said that an estimated \$3 billion, often earned in shady or illegal deals, were kept in Germany by such businessmen.

"Sooner or later, some of that money will be used for bribing German."

When Boutros Boutros-Ghali's term at the UN ends, the press will lose the lively Jewish spokeswoman brought in to brighten up the UN's image. Naomi Farrell reports

AS of last January 1, some 200 journalists of the international press corps of the United Nations have been treated to a breath of fresh air in the person of Sylvana Foa, the outrageous and charmingly blunt spokeswoman of the secretary-general.

Now, they are very depressed that Boutros Boutros-Ghali has not been re-elected, and consequently, they will not be able to enjoy her enlightening and sparkling renditions of what the UN has to add to history each day.

Some of the journalists who were not too enthusiastic about the present secretary-general said, before Friday's appointment of UN undersecretary Kofi Annan of Ghana to secretary-general, that they "wouldn't mind putting up with [Boutros Ghali] for another term, if only Sylvana could stay."

One could never doze in boredom at her daily briefings, even if she has hardly anything to report — which does happen once in a while — she would quip: "Good news day — no news, the world is OK, because all the news is terrible." With her brilliant sense of humor, she has the talent of making the most mundane news colorful and interesting, and prides herself in being able to translate the gobbledygook, "UNese," and "inter alia" situations to real everyday life. She even humanizes statistics.

"Sylvana," as she is fondly known by her many admirers on the Secretariat building's third-floor press section, was borrowed from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva, where she had been spokeswoman since 1991, and where, incidentally, she aroused the chagrin of so many people with her direct outspoken approach that she was noticed by Boutros-Ghali, who was in the market for a new image for the unpopular UN.

This is how this delightful 51-year-old, wisecracking, chain-smoking, native of Troy, New York, got here.

A graduate of Columbia University's Barnard College and

Charmer international



Boutros Boutros-Ghali's departure means the world will have to get by without spokeswoman Sylvana Foa. (United Nations)

a Special Carnegie Fellow at the Graduate School of Journalism, her journalistic career has brought her to many exotic corners of the globe such as Bangkok, Saigon, Hong Kong, and New Delhi. She worked for a variety of publications and wire services, such as *Newsweek* and *United Press International* (UPI).

She seems to have left her mark wherever she went. She was evicted from Cambodia after writing that American bombing raids were being directed from the United States Embassy — based on pilot-to-controller conversations that she picked up on a \$15 radio, as described in a *New York Times* article by Barbara Crossette. Foa has no qualms about criticizing her own government, "because it's inside the family. If I were an Iranian or Libyan bureaucrat, I would be accused of being anti-American."

"It's the same with being Jewish," she says. "I don't always approve of what's going on in Israel, but if someone who was not Jewish had the same opinion, I'd think they were antisemitic, and want to knock their teeth out."

FOA HAILS from a very prominent Italian-Jewish family of which a chapter in Alessandro Stille's book *Benevolence and Betrayal* is about the "Foa's of Turin." Her great-grandfather, Giuseppe Foa, was the chief rabbi of Turin. Her uncle, Vittorio Foa, who is still living in Italy, was a senator and famous anti-Fascist Labor Union leader. Her father,

Joseph Foa, a well-respected aeronautics engineer involved in designing jet planes, was imprisoned by the Fascists, later escaped to America, via Switzerland and Holland, got married and had four daughters — the second of whom was Sylvana.

She has been carrying on the family tradition of bringing attention to the Foa name throughout her career. She was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1984, for a 4,000-word interview with Indira Gandhi conducted just before her death, and rushed to print on the day of her assassination. The following year, Foa was nominated for both a Pulitzer Prize and an Overseas Press Club award for her Vietnam 10th Anniversary Package, including the first interview with Le Duc Tho.

During our interview, she said that one of the reasons she loves working at the UN is that she is "thrilled to be in the middle of history being made and in some small way to be a part of it." But this is certainly not new to our adventuresome and seemingly fearless Foa... who between 1971 and 1978 covered the war in Indochina, which was credited with significantly influencing US foreign policy. Foa was one of the first US correspondents granted a Chinese visa, and spent two months traveling there. It gave her a chance to practice the Chinese she had learned at Columbia University's East Asia Institute. (She is fluent in French and Italian as well.)

Also, from a base in Rome, she covered the rampant terrorism

that then plagued Italy, and traveled widely in the Middle East and Africa as a troubleshooter. Earlier she covered the fall of the shah in Teheran.

When asked what attracted her to an international career, she answered thoughtfully: "My late father became a refugee when he escaped from a Fascist prison in Italy. If he were not given asylum by the United States he would have been killed. That's why I have a strong feeling in my heart for the plight of refugees and the complex circumstances leading to this tragic situation. The UN is here not just to launch peacekeeping operations but to address and resolve global issues which create refugees, such as overpopulation, poverty, famine, desertification, disease, persecution, torture."

FOA IS a passionate advocate of the UN, and feels it plays a vital role in the world which is not really publicized. Her dilemma as the person in charge of the UN's image is "that the UN is in the forefront of most things that are happening in the world, and this is something that we are not very good at getting out because so much of what we do is behind the scenes, quiet diplomacy. Therefore, it's very easy for us to get passed over. We're not allowed to really pound our chests and say 'we did it, we did it!' It's better if countries take credit for it, and they feel better about it. It's a hard line not to stray from. The need to keep the UN in the news and let people know that the UN is something worth having and is

important, and the line that says you can't tell people what you're doing because you'll be breaking confidences.

"It was the UN that brought up the problems of the environment to begin with. Warning horns were first sounded in this building. If they are cutting down the rain forests in Brazil, it's going to affect storms on the east coast of the US, and crops in Africa. Everything is intertwined and now people are just beginning to understand that. Governments are now realizing that they can't take care of their own people unless they cooperate globally. The ozone-layer problem was not created by one country, and it is affecting all of us, all of our children and grandchildren. A country cannot stop an epidemic by closing its borders. You can't build walls around your country to keep diseases out. The same goes for terrorism, and narcotics trafficking. These are things we have to work together on. That's what this place exists for," she says.

"If the world decides to let this organization die, they'll immediately make another one just like it because the real problems in the world today are global."

Foa, who in her childhood worked as a babysitter to buy trees in Israel (and since has made numerous visits to look for her trees), fell in love, is buying an apartment in Jaffa and making aliyah. She plans to live there when she retires, and write a book. "I'm looking forward to 'coming home,'" she says. Watch out! Jaffa will never be the same.

The UN according to Foa

THE problem with the UN is that "the countries don't know what they want from us," declares the secretary-general's current spokeswoman, Sylvana Foa.

"During the Cold War they really just wanted us to be quiet and assist them in negotiations, produce useless documents, and use us as a figleaf so they could tell people they were working through the UN."

"They want us to be the bandaid on humanitarian emergencies and put out the bush fires, but they don't want us to get any credit for it," she said. "They want us to be the scapegoat for the situations that are impossible to resolve because they don't have the political will to put pressure on the sides to resolve them."

"We are sort of like the holding pattern. If you don't know what to do in Bosnia, you send the UN in for three years with a mandate that doesn't allow them to do anything except make sure that there are not millions of people starving."

"The journalists here are not fooled by political rhetoric — the great UN failure in Bosnia, for example. They watched the evolution of the whole situation. They watched the fact that we got 16,000 peacekeeping troops with a mandate that was, 'pretty please, pretty please, Mr. Serb, can I go through your checkpoint?' Pretty please, Mr. Serb, can I deliver supplies to the other side?"

"This, with no mandate to push their way through. Sixteen thousand troops for three years of winters and all-out war."

"And then, when the international community finally decided that they wanted to settle Bosnia and they got a peace agreement, they sent in 60,000 NATO troops armed to the teeth with a mandate that said, 'mess with me, buster, and you're dead meat.'"

"The UN was blamed for things we never did. We were told not to do something and were blamed because we didn't do it. Or we were told to do something then blamed because we did do it. We are not perfect and have setbacks all the time but we are not willing to take the blame anymore and that's a realization that's coming very slowly. Most countries respect people more when they fight back or stand up for themselves, instead of saying: 'Oh please, I'm so sorry.' N.F."

Post-apartheid environmental problems

EARTHLY CONCERNS
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

ACCORDING to a Canadian Research group working in South Africa, that country has inherited some of the world's most severe environmental problems. A good many of the most pressing problems stem from the former apartheid system wherein 80 percent of the population were crowded into the so-called townships created for the black people. These enclaves comprised only 13 percent of the area of the country and this led to drastic overcrowding which resulted in the total degradation of the environment.

Today these areas are virtually deforested, seriously eroded, water sources are polluted, and the soil is on the borderline of being non-arable. In addition, those black residents who did come into the cities were classed as "sojourners" and their residence was considered to be temporary. Therefore, no effort was made to provide infrastructure in the slums into which they moved.

Today these areas are filled to overflowing with people who have no access to sanitary

facilities or clean water, and in some places these teeming areas pose a threat to the entire water system of the area. Bad farming practices, on the part of both black and white farmers, has furthermore led to the loss of some 400 million tons of topsoil a year over more than a decade. This situation is rapidly causing soil depletion and diminishing crop yields.

Industry also received the attention of the Canadian team, which found that most of South Africa's factories are using out-of-date equipment and causing undue air and water pollution. Power plants are almost all coal-burning and lack proper smokestacks and pollution preventing scrubbers. But repairing the damage, and, at the same time, preventing further deterioration is going to be a job that could challenge South Africa's governments for generations to come. The white farmers

are set in the ways handed down to them by their forefathers and are slow to accept change; the black farmers are equally reluctant to see the advantage of new agricultural techniques.

As for industry, marginal profits and a lack of cash flow caused by former long-term sanctions make investment in environment protecting systems almost out of financial reach. But in addition to all this, while the white citizens seem to see conservation as a matter of wild-life reservations only, the black population have a long history of having seen "conservation" as simply another way to force them off their land.

Despite all this, efforts are being made and today South Africa recycles more materials than any other country — including glass, plastic, paper, aluminum, and even tin. And at the same time, environmental studies are being introduced into all branches of the school system. Even so, the road ahead is long and beset by a lot of problems that Nelson Mandela's government urgently needs to confront.



A five-year-old girl walks through an unsavory area of Johannesburg. (AP)

A unique gift from Jerusalem... Take Shabbat with you wherever you go!

From Shabbat candles and holders, with halah cover, spices, and grace after meals, to the Havdala candle - conveniently packed in a pouch that fits into any suitcase.

JP Special price: NIS 109

To: **MARU** The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000, Israel

Please send me Shabbat Travel Kits.

Enclosed is my check, payable to The Jerusalem Post, or see my credit card details:

Visa Eurocard/MasterCard AmEx

CC Number _____ Exp. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Mikud _____

Tel. (Day) _____ Signature _____



GIFT IDEA

ORDER BY PHONE OR FAX 02-6241282 Fax: 02-6241212 E-mail: maru@post.co.il

COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE

NATURAL HEALING
The Visual Encyclopedia of NATURAL HEALING... A Step-by-Step Pictorial Guide to Solving 100 Everyday Health Problems.
Natural healing is as easy as one, two, three. With illustrations and simple directions to guide you, this book will teach you how to:
• Soothe away the pain of headaches, eyestrain, arthritis and more.
• Make meals that help prevent heart attack, stroke and dozens of other diseases and conditions.
• Allergy-proof your house and much more.
Softcover, 423pp. JP Price: NIS 62

The Herb Society's COMPLETE MEDICINAL HERBAL... A Practical Guide to Medicinal Herbs, with Remedies for Common Ailments.
A splendid, hardcover large format guide in the tradition of the Doring Kindersley productions, with full-color photographs on every page, herbs past and present, an A-Z guide to medicinal herbs and home remedies, glossary, bibliography and index complete the picture. 152pp. JP Price: NIS 129

HERBALISM: Healing and Harmony, Symbolism, Ritual and Folklore Traditions of East and West
Frank Lipp
A richly illustrated and uniquely comprehensive pocket size guide to herbalism, tracing the histories of medicinal plants in different cultures. Includes medicinal recipes and a guide to the use of herbs in aromatherapy, perfume and cosmetics. Glossary and reference section. Softcover, 184pp. JP Price: NIS 65

STRESS: The Aromatic Solution. How Aromatherapy Can Relieve Stress and Stress-related Conditions
Maggie Tisserand
Stress is part of everyday life - but it can be alleviated with the help of essential oils. An A-Z guide, illustrated with line drawings. Softcover, 274pp. JP Price: NIS 68

Maggie Tisserand
THE AROMATIC SOLUTION

To: BOOKS, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000
Please send me NATURAL HEALING COMPLETE MEDICINAL HERBAL HERBALISM STRESS: Aromatic Solution
Mailing in Israel NIS 9 per order
Door-to-door delivery in Israel NIS 19 per order
Enclosed is my check, payable to The Jerusalem Post, or see my credit card details:
 Visa ISC/MCD Diners AmEx

CC No _____ Exp _____
Name _____ Address _____
City Code _____ ID No _____
Tel./Fax. (day) _____ Signature _____

VISIT US ON <http://www.jpost.co.il>

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Monday, December 16, 1996

Ministers still revising cuts, two days after deadline

FOUR ministries were still revising their 1997 budget-cut proposals last night, two days after the government-imposed deadline had expired.

DAVID HARRIS

Netanyahu will continue his series of budget meetings tomorrow, before he grants his approval. This will then enable the introduction of the new proposals to the Knesset, initially to its Finance Committee and then for its second and third readings no later than December 31.

Ravitz: Health fund pact imminent

EVELYN GORDON

AN agreement among the Treasury, the Health Ministry, and the health funds on proposed changes in the National Health Law now seems likely, Knesset Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) said yesterday.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Elbit, Bezeq, and Tadiran yesterday launched Netor, a Hebrew-language Internet service replacing a more limited service called TV-Tel.

Flour prices rose by 5.51 percent this morning, in accordance with an agreement between Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky.

Hapoalim: Tsubari 'victims' get NIS12m.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Hapoalim has decided to compensate provident fund investors with NIS 12 million to cover damages as a result of the illegal use of their investments in 1994 (the so-called Tsubari episode), the bank announced yesterday.

transferred into the provident fund accounts by the end of the month. The bank said the size of the compensation was calculated by the Kesselman and Kesselman accountancy firm, which was hired to examine the provident fund securities activities in the relevant period.

Israel Electric Corporation TENDER. The Israel Electric Corporation announces a single-stage, international tender. Includes a table with columns for TENDER, DESCRIPTION, and COST OF TENDER DOCUMENTS.

Avis sees 10% sales growth here in '97. GALIT LIPKIS BECK. AVIS Israel expects a 10 percent growth in 1997, yesterday said Isaac Weitz, managing director of the Dan Rent-A-Car company.

Invest in the world's major exchanges with Israel Discount Bank. It's a Small World!

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS. Table with columns for Currency (deposit rate), 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS. Includes sub-tables for Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) and Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates.

Give a Special Gift for the Holidays. Share The Jerusalem Post with a friend, relative or colleague. Includes a form for subscription and a small image of the newspaper.

PRIME Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents. Includes details on purchase price, redemption price, and contact information.

For current information on securities in Israel and the U.S. Including high-yielding U.S. government-backed debentures, call: M.H. MEYERSON & CO., INC.

Tel Aviv-Jaffa Municipality Public Tender No. 336/96. Supply and installation of Personal Computers for Tel Aviv-Jaffa Municipality. Includes a list of conditions for the tender.

Holiday season dampens futures trading

Banker for oil deals in Turkey

US Reform lay leaders reject interfaith weddings

MARILYN HENRY and DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE national board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, which is the lay leadership of the US Reform Movement, on Saturday night overwhelmingly rejected a resolution that would have called on Reform rabbis to officiate at interfaith weddings.

The resolution would have set the Reform laity against its clergy. The movement's Central Conference of American Rabbis relies on a 23-year-old measure that, in principle, opposes its rabbis' participation in "any ceremony which solemnizes a mixed marriage."

However, many Reform rabbis already perform interfaith weddings. The Reform Movement is planning a massive campaign for recognition of its conversions in Israel, and it had been feared that the UAHC resolution would have undercut the movement's efforts to gain legitimacy.

Meanwhile, two members of the Ministerial Committee on Conversions yesterday came out in favor of changing a bill to bar Israelis and their spouses from undergoing Conservative and Reform conversions abroad.

Interior Minister Eli Suissa (Shas) and Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy (National Religious Party) would be altering the compromise which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu favors.

In a speech carried by satellite to delegates at the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations in Seattle last month, Netanyahu indicated he did not want to pass any law to curb Conservative and Reform conversions abroad.

He made it clear that he would

oppose efforts by any Orthodox MKs — who do not recognize Conservative and Reform conversions — to do so, so as not to damage the Law of Return issue.

At the same time, Netanyahu made it clear that the law would not permit Conservative and Reform conversions to be performed in Israel. Netanyahu has defended both moves as codifying existing practices, which he said are consistent with the religious status quo.

At a meeting last Sunday of the ministerial panel on conversions, Suissa and Levy sought to persuade the other members to change the bill's language so it would forbid Israelis and their spouses from obtaining conversions abroad and thereby somewhat limit the scope of Reform and Conservative conversions.

One group that would be hit by the Suissa-Levy proposal would be immigrants from the former Soviet Union, who live in Israel but whose spouses often have not been recognized as Jews.

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein (Yisrael Ba'aliya) said he is somewhat wary of the Suissa-Levy idea.

"I have not rejected their ideas yet, but I want to make sure that there is not a broad definition that hurts the Conservative and Reform movements or has an impact on the Law of Return," he said.

The ministerial panel, which is headed by Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, decided last week that it also would bar Conservative and Reform conversions in the territories to block Conservative and Reform rabbis from performing conversions under the Palestinian Authority.



Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani (right) strolls beside newly appointed Police Deputy Inspector-General Gabi Last (center) and his replacement as Tel Aviv police chief, Cmdr. Shlomo Aharonishy, after a changing of the guard ceremony yesterday in Tel Aviv. Other senior personnel changes are expected in the force shortly, especially following the resignation of Jerusalem chief Cmdr. Arye Amit.

Canadian officials to take testimony from Nazi hunter, witnesses

ROBERT SARNER and STEVE LEIBOWITZ

SENIOR officials from Canada's Justice Department and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Special War Crimes Unit have arranged to meet with a New York detective this week to receive evidence, including secretly recorded confessions, on the presence of scores of suspected Nazi war criminals in Canada.

The meeting on Thursday in Montreal between private investigator Steve Rambam and Canadian authorities follows recent reports in *The Jerusalem Post* and on Israel Television's IBA News on his findings, which prompted Justice Minister Allan Rock to invite Rambam to present his evidence to Ottawa.

Canadian Jewish leader Bernie Farber, prominent historian Irving Abella, and the head of the Israeli office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Efraim Zuroff, will also participate in the meeting. The writers of this article are to be called as material witnesses in part of the original investigation.

Rambam is to hand over secretly taped inter-

views with alleged Nazi war criminals, which he conducted while posing as a visiting professor from a fictitious university.

Representing Ottawa at the meeting will be Paul Vickery, who heads the Justice Department's War Crimes Unit, and his counterpart at the RCMP, Inspector Jean Dube. Over the weekend, Vickery told *The Toronto Globe and Mail* that, "if in fact Rambam's interviews were able to be used in court and they were accepted, then they could well tip the balance [in ongoing investigations]."

Wiesenthal Center founder and Dean Rabbi Marvin Hier urged Rock last week to move quickly against three men implicated in Rambam's investigation. "We believe that [Rambam's work] constitutes important evidence regarding crimes committed by individ-

uals currently residing in Canada," Hier wrote in a letter to Rock.

"We therefore urge you to take whatever measures are necessary to insure that this important information is reviewed promptly so that it can be fully utilized to bring those guilty of perpetuating the crimes of the Holocaust to the bar of justice, either by prosecution for war crimes or by deportation for immigration violations."

Ottawa has long been criticized for not only admitting thousands of Nazi war criminals into Canada after World War II, but also for refusing for decades to bring them to justice despite repeated demands by Jewish groups. Only in the 1980s did Canada begin to conduct serious war crimes investigations.

Only one Nazi war criminal has ever been deported and another extradited, although an official government investigation has called for immediate legal action against 20 suspected Nazi war criminals and urged investigators to look more closely at 200 other suspects.

Kleiner: Inquire into Generali's non-payment of Holocaust victims' life insurance policies

DAVID HARRIS

THE chairman of the Knesset subcommittee on insurance affairs, Michael Kleiner (Likud-Gesher), is calling for an immediate inquiry into the alleged failure of Assicurazioni Generali to pay out on life insurance policies of Jews killed in the Holocaust.

Italian-based Generali, one of Europe's largest insurers, is currently in the process of purchasing Bank Leumi's controlling share in Migdal Insurance, a deal which has yet to receive license approval from the Treasury.

Kleiner said he is disturbed by the claim of Martin Stern, whose grandfather Mor Stern perished in Auschwitz in 1944. In 1945, Mor's son attempted to claim on his father's policy, which had been taken out for Kr 30,000 in 1929, through the firm's Prague office.

However, Generali told him he would have to provide a death certificate. Due to nationalization in Czechoslovakia, control of the company's Czech interests was removed from Generali, with its property being expropriated by the government.

After lengthy negotiations, the Czechs agreed to pay Generali some \$8 million for the property seized, money that Martin Stern

says should be paid to the families of Jews prevented from collecting on claims in the 1940s.

Generali vice-director Guido Pastori wrote to Stern last week, saying the company would not pay on the claim.

"We cannot entertain your suggestions, even on moral grounds," Pastori wrote.

The use of the term "moral grounds," was roundly condemned yesterday by Kleiner, who is calling for a team to be set up to investigate the incident and see if there are any other such claims.

The committee would comprise a lawyer and accountant, both appointed by the Israeli government, an independent journalist and a Generali representative, should the company be willing to participate.

Furthermore, Kleiner intends on holding a Knesset insurance subcommittee session on the issue, to which he would summon representatives of Migdal and Generali, together with Treasury-based Insurance Commissioner Doron Shorer.

In Kleiner's opinion, the inquiries must take a serious look at whether

Generali should make payments to families or the State of Israel, or at least make a gesture. That's something the company is currently considering, according to its Israeli legal representative Amihud Ben-Porat.

Kleiner has already turned to Shorer to ask his opinion on the issue, and while still awaiting a reply, said, "We agree on most matters, so I cannot see why we should disagree this time."

Despite repeated attempts to contact him, Shorer is refusing to discuss the issue with *The Jerusalem Post*.

"The Insurance Commissioner has nothing to do with this issue," Finance Ministry spokesman Eli Yosef said. "If Kleiner wants an answer from Shorer, he should write to him. Shorer will not give replies through the media."

The cash part of the Migdal deal, which amounts to some NIS 340m., is among the largest ever in the Israeli private sector. While Generali still intends going ahead with the deal, one source within the company said that if the current unpleasantness escalates and becomes a political issue, it might be forced to reevaluate its investment plans.

Tribunal orders Horev court martial to continue

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

A MILITARY tribunal sitting in Tel Aviv yesterday rejected a petition by Col. Moni Horev to drop charges against him. The court ruled that his court-martial on charges he negligently caused the death of a soldier under his command in a training accident three years ago must proceed.

The precedent-setting court-martial, headed by Col. Oded Mudrik, did not accept Horev's arguments that the charges against him were not clear. It said that the court could not relieve Horev of responsibility without a trial and it could not clarify the full charges against him until the circumstances surrounding the accident were laid before the court in a trial.

Horev is being charged with four other Givati Brigade officers in the death of Givati Sgt. Yonai Shoshan, who was mortally wounded when a fragmentation grenade went off in his webbing during training. Horev was Shoshan's brigade commander at the time.

A military investigation found that the February 1994 accident occurred because Shoshan was not aware of safety regulations. Horev and the four other officers were charged with negligence for not ensuring regulations were followed.

The court martial is expected to decide for the first time whether a brigade commander is responsible for enforcing safety regulations or whether this responsibility lies with less senior officers.

The court martial, which follows persistent civilian court pressure by Shoshan's parents, is being watched closely by senior officers, many of whom see it as a dangerous precedent of outsiders meddling in internal military affairs.

The court's decision yesterday also left open the possibility of separating Horev from the trial of the other four Givati officers. Last month, the High Court of Justice rejected a petition by Shoshan's parents against Horev's appointment as head of the officer training school.

The parents charged that allowing Horev to continue in his post was sending a message that officers can afford to be careless with their soldiers' lives. But the court sided in favor of the army, which reasoned that it was unfair to suspend Horev before the military

tribunal.

Moslem father demands to see daughter who fled to haredi home

DAVID RUDGE

THE Moslem father of a teenage girl who ran away from their Haifa home to reside with a haredi family yesterday pleaded to be allowed to see his daughter.

Fathi Darweesh informed police immediately after his 15-year-old daughter, Linda Darweesh, disappeared on November 13. Searches for the runaway lasted for just over a month, with police beginning to express concern for her safety. Linda, whose mother is Jewish, was found yesterday at the home of a haredi family in Haifa.

The Haifa police spokesman said the girl said she went to stay with the family of her own free will and does not want to return to her father.

However, because she is a minor her father is still her legal guardian. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is attempting to resolve the case.

Darweesh said his daughter is one of three children born to himself and his Jewish ex-wife. The couple was divorced over 10 years ago and their three children remained with Darweesh, who remarried, as did his ex-wife, who now lives in Eilat.

Though their children are Jewish according to Halacha, Darweesh said they all are registered with the Interior Ministry as Moslem Arabs.

He said his eldest son is married and lives in an Arab village. After turning 18, the middle son had gone to live with his mother and become an orthodox Jew.

Darweesh claimed that since then his ex-wife's family — especially a son of hers from a previous marriage — had been "brainwashing" Linda to return to her Jewish religious roots.

"I'm happy that Linda has been found safe and well, but I'm distressed that she says she doesn't want to come home," Darweesh said. "I want the police and the social workers to carry out a thorough investigation into all the circumstances leading to her running away, and I want to be allowed to see her."

"I don't even know where she is, other than that she's with a haredi family in Haifa. I raised her since she was four years old after her mother gave her up. For nearly 12 years, she didn't see her mother, so how they can suddenly love her, I just don't know."

ISRAEL'S No. 1

ELDANITZ

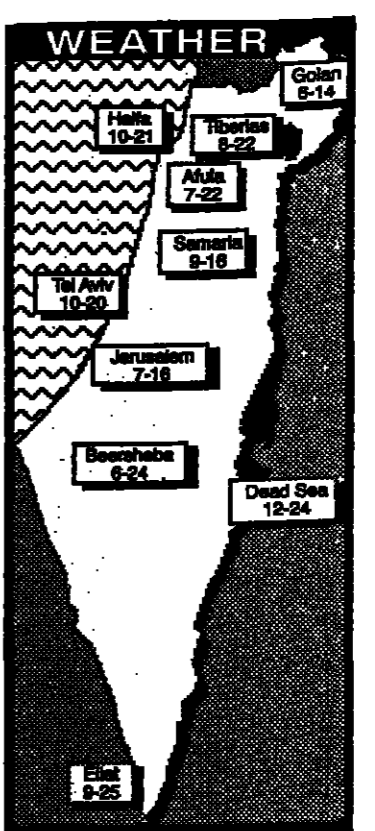
FROM \$9 PER DAY EXC. TAX & MILEAGE

CELLULAR PHONE AVAILABLE!

TEL AVIV: 101 HIRSHON ST. TEL. 03-647-4100 TEL. AVIV - 8 HAHAMOSHIM ST. TEL. 03-647-4101 JERUSALEM: 10 BONA OAK ST. TEL. 02-624-2244 HERTZLIYA: 10-101 HIRSHON ST. TEL. 03-647-4100 HAIFA: 04-837-4027 TEL. HAIFA: 04-837-4028 TEL. TEL-AVIV: 03-647-4100 TEL. TEL-AVIV: 03-647-4101

http://www.eldan.co.il

VALID 1/2/96 - 13/12/96 10/1/97 - 31/3/97



Forecast: Partly cloudy.

AROUND THE WORLD

Table with columns for city and weather conditions. Cities listed include Amsterdam, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Chicago, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Geneva, Hong Kong, London, Los Angeles, Madrid, Mexico City, Moscow, New York, Paris, Rome, Stockholm, Sydney, Taipei, Toronto, Vienna, and Zurich.

Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the 7 of spades, the jack of hearts, the 10 of diamonds and the 9 of clubs.

GSS to get public spokesman for first time

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

IN a further step to lower its veil of secrecy, the General Security Service intends to appoint shortly its first official spokesman, who will act as its link with the public on matters of collaborator rehabilitation.

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office, which will remain responsible for all other official media links with the GSS, said the new spokesman will be a woman currently employed by the service. The spokesman's identity is expected to be announced within the next few weeks.

The spokesman will deal with the resettlement and rehabilitation of hundreds of former Palestinian informers. The GSS branch responsible for them has grown so much, that it is commanded by a person whose rank is equivalent to major general.

Among its tasks are finding former informers jobs and places to live.

"This is no doubt a precedent for the GSS, even if we are not talking of a spokesman for the GSS, but just a branch," one security source told Israel Radio.

Over the past year, the GSS has lost much of its secret image. Its former head, Ya'acov Perry, had his name splashed on the Internet and the current head, Ami Ayalon, is the first person in the top slot to be officially revealed.

But except for these two positions, the identities of all other employees in the GSS are still censored.

BE A WINNER! Fill out this entry form today, return it to The Jerusalem Post and participate in our weekly raffle for valuable gift certificates from Kitan Center, Golf and Levi's stores! Every Friday in The Post, we'll announce three new prize winners: 1st Prize: NIS 700 value, 2nd Prize NIS 200 value, 3rd Prize NIS 100 value. The more you read The Post...the better your chances are to Be A Winner!

Israel's leading electronic daily POST Is willing for you. Includes various advertisements for services like 'Today' and 'Avalon: Advised PM to open tunnel'.